

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM  
Monday, January 14, 2019  
12:30 p.m. – Wedell-Williams and Cypress Sawmill Museum  
Patterson, Louisiana

Members Present: Lee Felterman, Aleta Leckelt, Kevin Kelly, Richard Hartley, Kim Abramson, Rosemary Upshaw Ewing, Anne Redd, Suzie Terrell, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Coulon and William Wilton

Members Absent: Melissa Steiner, Ann Irwin, Sharon Gahagan, Faye Phillips, Larry Schmidt, George Hero, Christen Losey-Gregg, Holly Haag, and Madlyn Bagneris

Also Present: Julia George Moore, Susan Maclay

LSM Staff Present: Yvonne Mack, Madison Bonaventure, Steven Maklansky, and Bridgette Thibodeaux

A quorum was present.

**Call to Order**

Anne Redd called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm

Julia George Moore officiated the swearing in/oath of office of Kim Abramson.

Lee Felterman introduced guests: members of the Wedell-Williams Foundation Board (F.C. “Butch” Felterman and Steve Bierhorst), St. Mary Parish Sheriff (Blaise Smith), Mayor of Patterson (Rodney Grogan), and State Representative Blake Miguez.

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda**

Aleta Leckelt made a motion to adopt the agenda. Fairleigh Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**Motion to Adopt the Minutes**

Lee Felterman made a motion to adopt the minutes from Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum meeting held November 26, 2018. Mary Coulon seconded the motion. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**Interim Director’s Report**

Steven Maklansky discussed the newly opened exhibitions (Land and Sea (PhotoNOLA); CISLANDERUS; Mapping the Crescent; Pontalba). He also discussed the deaccessioning project and the upcoming exhibition at Capitol Park Museum which includes the hearse which carried Martin Luther King Jr.’s

body. Also announced was the exhibition upcoming at LSHOF, Pelican State Goes to War (a World War II travelling exhibition). He provided an update on new education programs and discussed the Museum Governance RFP which is soon to be released.

### **Committee Action Items:**

#### **Collections**

The Collections report was presented by Fairleigh Jackson.

1. Approval of incoming loans for exhibitions (Attachment A) – Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve all incoming loans. The motion was **unanimously approved**.
2. Approval of outgoing loans (Attachment A) - NOMA - Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve all outgoing loans. The motion was **unanimously approved**.
3. Approval of proposed deaccessions from the permanent collection (Attachment A) - Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve all proposed deaccessions. The motion was **unanimously approved**.
4. Approval of proposed conservation treatment to outgoing loan artifact (Attachment A) - Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve the proposed conservation treatment (Attachment A). The motion was **unanimously approved**.

#### **Irby/Finance**

Will Wilton provided an Irby/Finance update in regards to a recent rental of an apartment. Rosemary Ewing made a motion to accept Ben Jacobson as the new tenant for 503 St. Ann, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Lee seconded the motion and it was **unanimously approved**.

#### **Report from Louisiana Museum Foundation**

Susan Maclay presented the report for LMF, which included the results of the internal audit conducted by DCRT. She also provided an update on programming associated with the Pontalba exhibition. Plans for a Jacques Amans exhibition are in the works.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

#### **New Business**

Lee Felterman discussed the Patterson roadway project. The gate at the front of the museum is typically closed. A DOTD project has been funded for FY 2020-21. Aleta Leckelt moved for a memorandum be drafted from the LSM Board to DOTD, in support of expediting the roadway project. Suzie Terrell seconded the motion and it was **unanimously approved**.

#### **Adjournment**

Anne Redd made a motion to adjourn. Aleta Leckelt seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

## II. Proposed Deaccessions

**Accession Number** 08266.01-.06

**Objects:** Six (6) woven wool serapes/ponchos, Unknown maker(s), Oaxaca, Mexico, early twentieth century.

**Acquisition Date:** October 1922

**Donor:** Mr. Willard H. Case.

**Documentation/Provenance:** Any documentation regarding the donor's acquisition of these textiles is unknown. The donor began making gifts of artifacts to LSM in 1922 and continued doing so until 1948. His gifts cross nearly all departments at the Museum. It can be assumed that the donor acquired these textiles as souvenirs during a trip to Mexico, but there is no proof of this. The original gift included eleven textiles, but only six remain documented in the LSM collection. According to the accession log, the Museum seems to have acquired these textiles from the donor by exchange for a painting, and the textiles were technically placed on loan. The loan was officially resolved during the 2007-2008 Loan Resolution Project, which simply affirmed the original documentation of the acquisition of the textiles by LSM in exchange for an unknown painting. Catalogue worksheets from 1973 in the master files for these textiles indicate that they were displayed at the time in the Presbytère in an exhibit on the Mexican War.

**Deaccession Justification Narrative:** Because these textiles originated in Mexico, they bear no relevance to Louisiana's history or culture. They seem to be the type of textiles that could be acquired as souvenirs by travelers to Mexico, although it seems unlikely that they would have been worn by the donor back home due to their ethnic quality. In the early years of the Museum's existence, artifacts of all types were acquired by the Museum whether or not they bore any connection to Louisiana history. This was likely due in part to the effort of Museum staff to grow the collection by accepting artifact donations of all kinds, especially from regular donors like Mr. Case, who gifted over 100 various artifacts over the course of 26 years. At this point, there is no logical or foreseeable exhibition in which these textiles could be featured.

**Fair Market Value:** (original donor value, 1922, \$500.00)

**Does the Louisiana State Museum own clear title?** Yes

**Restrictions:** None

**Proposed Method of Disposal:** Preferably by donation or exchange with another museum or similar institution. Otherwise, sale at auction.

**Accession Number** 2000.021.2

**Object:** Mardi Gras souvenir, crawfish on crown with umbrella

**Acquisition Date:** 2000

**Donor:** Ms. Adrienne Berney

**Documentation/Provenance:** The donor purchased this object in 1999 at an antique store called Discount City, previously located at 1019 Decatur Street and now defunct. She paid \$1.00 for it. She purchased it explicitly for donation to LSM. At the time, Berney was LSM Curator of Decorative Arts.

**Deaccession Justification Narrative:** This homemade folk art souvenir by an unknown maker offers nothing to the study of carnival history. It is a glued-together trifle that combines unrelated

objects in an attempt to create a humorous scene using a genuine crawfish shell. It is generally inadvisable to introduce animal products into the collection for fear of pest infestation. The donor herself, on her original acquisition justification, remarked that the crawfish body may deteriorate significantly over time. The object has the appearance of an amateur craft project, and as such, has no place in a sophisticated museum collection.

**Fair Market Value:** \$1.00

**Does the Louisiana State Museum own clear title?** Yes

**Restrictions:** None

**Proposed Method of Disposal:** Disposal

**Accession Number** T7.1993.1095.a-d  
**Four (4) Objects:** 45 rpm single vinyl records in paper sleeves, 1968  
**Acquisition Date:**  
**Donor:** Unknown donor  
**Maker/Artist:** Johnny Wiggs and His Bayou Stompers  
**Titles:** *Peggy O'Neil, Yellow Dog Blues, Lillian Gasperou, The One I Love Belongs to Someone Else*

**Fair Market Value:** \$20.00

**Does the Louisiana State Museum own clear title?** None found

**Restrictions:** None found

**Proposed Method of Disposal:** Donation to Euclid Records

**Accession Number** T7.1993.1150  
**Object:** 45 rpm single vinyl record in paper sleeve  
**Acquisition Date:** 1965  
**Donor:** Unknown donor  
**Maker/Artist:** Dixie ODJC Sound  
**Titles:** *Rose Room, River Boat Shuffle*

**Fair Market Value:** \$0.00

**Does the Louisiana State Museum own clear title?** None found

**Restrictions:** None found

**Proposed Method of Disposal:** Donation to Euclid Records

**Accession Number** T0007.1993.1145  
**Object:** 45 rpm single vinyl record in paper sleeve, 1960  
**Acquisition Date:**  
**Donor:** Unknown donor  
**Maker/Artist:** Golden Records, John F. Kennedy  
**Title:** John F. Kennedy Memorial, (highlights from his nomination acceptance speech and inaugural address)

**Fair Market Value:** \$15.00

**Does the Louisiana State Museum own clear title?** None found

**Restrictions:** None found

**Proposed Method of Disposal:** Donation to Euclid Records