

DDD Commission Meeting  
December 8, 2008, 8:00 a.m.  
Louisiana State Museum, 660 N. Fourth St.

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry, Mark Bensabat, Norman Chenevert,  
Derrell Cohoon, Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Fran Gladden

Others in Attendance: Raymond Alexander, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Paul Arrigo, Debbie Ashe, Jo Landry Bagewell, Brad Bates, Danny Belanger, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carolyn Bennett, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Bill Blackwood, Philipa Blair, Dave Briggs, Carrie Broussard, Nancy Broussard, Dana Brown, Christina Bourg, Mike Bruce, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Lindsey Cavalier, Charles Coates, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Sara Courtney, Melissa Daly, Chad Danos, Pete Darling, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Huey Dugas, Paul Dykes, Lacey Dupre, Kendrick Eubanks, John Eblen, Kirk Edwards, Madeline Ellis, Jon Elvert, Matthew Emory, Eric Engeman, David Farrar, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Joey Furr, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Carol Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Mark Goodson, Derek Gordon, Francis Grayson, Jill Green, Lauren Gutierrez, Jennifer Hall, Rebecca Hamilton, John Hart, David Jacobs, John O. Hearin, Jerry Hebert, Kristin Hebert, John Helm, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Helen Holland, Virginia Holmes, Lael Holton, Kristi Howard, Alice Howe, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Staci Jamieson, Donnie Jarreau, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Ernest Junius, Jason Keller, Lanny Keller, Billy Kelley, Stafford Kendall, Eddie King, Joe Labbe, Mike Labat, Dana LaFonta, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Stacey Levert, Tom Livesay, Paul Lockett, Sam Losavio, Steven Lumpkin, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Nikki Essix, Manuel, Nicole Marshall, Jill Martinez, Katherine Mason, Dee Mather, Danny McGlynn, Carrie Miller, BJ Mililello, Al McDuff, Marvin Mitchell, Todd Mitchell, Penny Murray, Richard Neal, Dyke Nelson, Lisa Nice, Rod Nunez, Mike Odom, Mary Olinde, Theresa Overby, Betsy Paille, Johnny Palazzotto, Bill Palmer, Greg Palmer, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Joel Phillips, Eric Poche, Vincent Price, Tina Rance, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Sage Roberts, Erin Rolfs, Kerry Ruiz, Troy Russ, Samuel Sanders, James Schafer, John Schneider, Katherine Scherer, Ben Schultz, Joe Sciortino, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Terry Serio, Casey Sessions, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, Mike Songy, Kathleen Spencer, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Steinhouse, John Stewart, Jerry Stovall, George Strain, Kristin Stutes, Cherry Talbert, Ben Taylor, Todd Teepel, Jeremy Tennant, Ted Terrell, Boo Thomas, Christopher Toombs, Clark Vega, Barry Walls, Brad Way, Emily Wharton, Tara Wicker, Matt Wilks, Bubba Willis, Michael Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood

1. Mr. Derrell Cohoon called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Derrell Cohoon declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Chenevert moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Bensabat seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Mayhall moved to approve the November 13, 2008 minutes, Mr. Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.

**5. Board Action – Adoption of 2009 Budget** – The Commission viewed, via power point, photographs representing the goal areas of the DDD. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2009 Operating Budget and Goals & Objectives. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the budget will increase 8% from 2008 which included a \$52,300 surplus bringing the total budget \$625, 310. Mr. Cohoon informed the Commission that the budget includes the allocation for a part time Arts & Entertainment position.

**Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to adopt the 2009 Operating Budget and Goals & Objectives, Ms. Nichols seconded and the 2009 Operating Budget and Goals & Objectives were unanimously adopted.**

6a. **Governmental Issues** – There was no information to report.

6b. **Development Initiatives – Downtown 2008 in Retrospect** – The Commission viewed, via power point, photographs representing the goal areas of the DDD. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the projects in 2008 and thanked everyone involved in the progress downtown.

**Downtown Festival of Lights Report** – The Commission viewed, via power point, the logo and photographs of the event. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Festival of Lights brochure and newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the event was a tremendous success and thanked everyone involved.

**Re-Green Downtown Baton Rouge Update** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the tree planting downtown. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Baton Rouge Green has begun planting the trees downtown. Mr. Cohoon requested an update on the maintenance of the tree wells. Mr. Goodson informed the Commission that Ms. Diane Losavio, Baton Rouge Green, has secured three landscape architect firms to monitor the tree wells downtown and submit weekly reports, she has also secured a grant for tree well maintenance training for DPW employees. The Downtown Development District will continue to monitor the tree wells.

**Plan Baton Rouge Phase II Update** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of previous meetings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Cabaniss informed the Commission that meetings continue with consultants and stakeholders. The open house is scheduled for Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the Louisiana State Museum, with a presentation by Alex Krieger outlining the program. Mr. Cabaniss encouraged everyone to view the PBR II link on the DDD website at [www.downtownbatonrouge.org](http://www.downtownbatonrouge.org).

**River Center** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the River Center. Mr. Todd Mitchell reviewed the recent events held at the River Center and upcoming events for 2009. Renovations are currently being implemented in the theatre and dressing rooms. Mr. Rhorer asked Mr. Mitchell if the capacity issues affected the attraction of big name performers.

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Mr. Mitchell confirmed that the River Center's current capacity is approximately 8,000 and to compete with other exhibition halls the capacity needs to be increased to at least 10,000.

**Events** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logos for the following events. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following events.

**Holiday Music Magic** – Nov. 29 – Dec. 26, Louisiana Arts and Science Museum

**Carlos Mencia** – December 10 & 11, River Center,

**A Christmas Carol**, Manship Theater, Dec. 10, 13, 14

**Deck the Halls**, Arts Council Community Gallery – December 12

**Oliver**, River Center, December 12

**Downtown Christmas Parade** – December 13

**Arts Market**, December 13, 20

**B. R. Symphony Holiday Brass Concert**, St. Joseph Cathedral – December 14

**The Listening Room**, Lyceum – December 19

**A Gift from Lyman Bourke**, Manship Theater – December 19-21, 23, 26-28

**Capital One's Skating on the River**, River Center – December 19 – 31

**Christmas Carol Pilgrimage**, Mt. Zion Church – December 21

**New Year's Eve at the Hilton** – December 31

7. **Ongoing –Center for Planning Excellence** – Ms. Boo Thomas informed the Commission that Request for Qualifications has been issued for the Horizon Plan Update.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via power point, the BREADA logo. Mr. Davis Rhorer encouraged everyone to continue to support the markets.

8. **Correspondence** – No information to report.

9. **Public Comment** – Mr. Charles Coates, retired civil engineer, requested that Plan Baton Rouge II incorporate a museum about Baton Rouge history. Mr. Coates reviewed his recommendations for the proposed museum. Ms. Carolyn Bennett, Foundation for Historical Louisiana, informed the Commission that the FHL has appointed a committee to work with Mr. Coates.

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**Announcement** – Mr. Derrell Cohoon requested that Cheri Ausberry and Chris Nichols serve with him on the nominating committee for the recommendation of 2009 DDD officers. The recommendation of officers will be presented at the January 13, 2009 board meeting.

Mr. Rhorer recognized the new general manger of American Gateway Bank's downtown branch, Mr. Casey Sessums.

Mr. Chris Andrews informed the Commission that First United Methodist Church is renovating the Bailey House at 900 North Blvd. which is being converted into a spirituality center. They have also approved to proceed with the construction of a new facility on the corner of East Boulevard and America Street. The 3-story building will include a conference center to accommodate 300 and two floors for youth ministries. Both projects will cost approximately \$10 million total.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. Bill Stark for hosting the meeting at the museum.

**Meeting adjourned.**