



# ANGOLA MUSEUM

AT THE LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY

## **Annual Report** **FY 2018-2019**

This annual report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Angola Museum at the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation during fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

# LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY MUSEUM FOUNDATION

## Our Mission

The mission of the Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP) Museum Foundation is to support the LSP Museum in the efforts to promote its historical, educational, and cultural activities with the public in order to preserve the history and development of the justice system in Louisiana.

## Core Values

Integrity:

*The LSP Museum Board values honesty and ethics. We are accountable for our decisions and actions.*

Openness and Inclusiveness:

*We are committed to transparency in our operations; we are open to ideas; information and knowledge and communicate truthfully regarding our efforts and activities.*

Excellence:

*We value quality in everything we do and how we do it—and we are recognized for our achievements.*

Education:

*We are committed to investing in the education of our members and the community and leaving a footprint for others to follow.*

Innovation:

*We envision what might be and encourage creativity in the pursuit of our mission.*

## OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *and* Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee exercises decision-making authority over the management of the routine business affairs of the Museum Foundation during the intervals between Board meetings. Actions undertaken by the Committee require Board approval at the next meeting of the Board.

**Sheryl M. Ranatza, President**  
Chairman  
Louisiana Board of Pardons and Parole  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Dr. Huey Perry, Vice President**  
Professor Emeritus, Political Science  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Ronnie Jett, Treasurer**  
Retired, Assistant Warden  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Norwood, Louisiana

**Michael Wynne, Secretary**  
Retired, Alexandria District Manager  
Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Division of Probation & Parole  
Alexandria, Louisiana

**Dr. Marianne Giorlando, At-Large**  
Professor Emerita, Criminal Justice  
Grambling State University  
Grambling, Louisiana

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Shirley Coody** (Ex-Officio)

Assistant Warden  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

**Cathy Fontenot**

Deputy Warden  
East Baton Rouge Sherriff's Office  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Jason Kent**

Warden  
Dixon Correctional Institute  
Jackson, Louisiana

**Brian Gremillion** (Ex-Officio)

Administrative Director  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

**C. B. Owen**

Retired, VP and Chief Technology Officer  
USG Corporation  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Stephanie Perrault**

Cultural Resources Manager  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Jesse Perkins, Jr.**

Retired, Superintendent of Schools  
West Feliciana Parish  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Perry Stagg**

Deputy Warden  
Elayn Hunt Correctional Center  
St. Gabriel, Louisiana

**Dr. Robert Toburen**

Retired, Adjunct Professor  
Louisiana Tech University  
Ruston, Louisiana

**Darrel Vannoy** (Ex-Officio)

Warden  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

**Hal Ware**

Retired, Judge  
20th Judicial District  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Gary Young**

Assistant Warden  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Foundation's Advisory Board is a collection of individuals who bring unique knowledge and skills which complement the knowledge and skills of the formal Board members in order to more effectively govern the organization. The following the list of advisory board members.

**Landry Bonnette**

Retired, Elayn Hunt Correctional Center  
St. Gabriel, Louisiana

**Betty Phelps**

Realtor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**David Burton**

Retired, District Attorney  
Deridder, Louisiana

**Anne Shoemake**

Retired, Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Tunica, Louisiana

**J. Austin Daniel**

Sheriff, West Feliciana Parish  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Nadine Tanner**

Retired, Louisiana State Penitentiary  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Billy D'Aquila**

Mayor, Town of St. Francisville  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**E. Cole Thornton**

Retired, Local Activist  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Leroy Harvey**

Businessman, Activist, Entrepreneur  
Jackson, Louisiana

**Richard L. Stalder**

Retired, Secretary of Corrections  
Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Zachary, Louisiana

**David Norwood**

Retired, *The Advocate*  
St. Francisville, Louisiana

**Sue Turner**

Philanthropist for Historic Preservation  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Robert Vehock**

Program Consultant  
Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

# STRATEGIC GOALS 2017-2020

Approved by the Board of Directors  
September 8, 2017

## Focus Areas

Sustainability  
Accreditation  
Board of Directors  
Education  
Staff  
Volunteers  
Marketing and Awareness  
Accession and Deaccession  
Facility Management and Planning

## Our Goals 2017-2020

1. Sustainability, development, and funding
2. Accreditation
3. Recruitment and retention of an inclusive and trained board
4. Increase educational opportunities
5. Plan for appropriate staff development
6. Enhance volunteer opportunities
7. Marketing
8. Museum awareness campaign
9. Policy and procedure
10. Facility upgrade
11. Accession and deaccession

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## ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2017-2018

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Goal 1: Funding – Increase funding to sustain an efficient level of operations and improve future growth and quality of programs.

Objectives and Strategies: Improve oversight of finances and increase funding

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

- The Museum Director reviewed all policies and procedures regarding internal controls to ensure that policies reflect best practices.

- The Museum Director monitored practices by staff for rodeo sales and inventory control
- Hired a correctional officer supervisor for the Big House Café with experience in food service preparation and meal service
- Established an inventory system to monitor food inventory at the Big House Café
- Began the development of a system to improve profit margin of food sales
- Along with the development of the museum’s new website, an online form was added to digitally solicit donations. The website has been formatted to redirect the viewer to the donation page upon any interaction within the website.

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## Goal 2: Accreditation – Achieve and maintain accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums

Objectives and Strategies: Prepare the museum for the next accreditation review by AAM

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

- All committee chairs worked on the strategic planning process to begin development of the 2021 strategic plan document
- Each Board member signed the annual Museum Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest Affirmation of Compliance and Disclosure Statement
- This goal is being carefully reviewed to determine a cost/benefit analysis of the accreditation process. As such, activities toward accreditation were suspended until that review has been completed.

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## Goal 3: Recruitment and retention of an inclusive and well-trained board

Objectives and Strategies: Recruit a “working” board

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

- The Nominating Committee worked to solicit interest from potential board members who are interested in the Museum Foundation’s Mission and in working with other Board members to advance the mission of the Museum Foundation.
- Four current board members were re-elected to the Board of Directors at the 2019 annual meeting, while one board member opted to move to the Advisory Board.
- One local community activist in St. Francisville was nominated; however, she declined the nomination citing possible conflict of interest.
- For the January board meeting, board members met at The Shaw Center in Baton Rouge for a four-hour training event facilitated by the Louisiana Association for Nonprofit Organizations.

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## Goal 4: Education – Enhance the visitor’s local and distance educational experience

Objectives and Strategies: Create a research center for academics, genealogists, and the public

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

- Planned, developed, and hosted a successful and well-attended biennial symposium on prison reform and reentry programs. Approximately 70 guests were in attendance.
- Assisted various individuals and entities with research requests
- Hosted a book signing and author panel to discuss the book, *The Meaning of Life*. Approximately 45 guests attended the event.
- Began planning for the 2021 Symposium and Exhibition, “In Pursuit of Equal Justice: Race and Criminal Justice in Louisiana from Jim Crow to Criminal Justice Reform, 1898-2017”
- Updated existing exhibits (History of *The Angolite* and Escape Displays)
- The Women of Angola – Updates and rotations were in progress at the close of the fiscal year.
- Several tours were conducted for distinguished guests of the Museum:
  - Dr. Erin Greenwald, Vice President of Content and Editor-in-Chief, *64 Parishes*, for the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
  - Students from Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts
  - Marc Mauer, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project, and Kerry Myers, Deputy Director of the Louisiana Parole Project
- The Angola historical timeline was edited, revised, and uploaded the museum’s new website as an online learning tool for the general public.
- Education Committee members participated in various presentations and discussions:
  - “Prison Journalism and *The Angolite: Past, Present and Future*” - roundtable discussion at the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November
  - “History of Angola” – presentation at the Hillard Art Museum at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
  - “Slavery, the Prison Industrial Complex: Photographs by Keith Calhoun Chandra McCormick” - community discussion at the Hillard Art Museum at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, LA

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Goal 5: Plan for appropriate staff development and retain a skilled, inclusive staff

Objectives and Strategies: Provide an inclusive, skilled staff

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:



- Continued participation in the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) training and networking opportunities for the Museum’s Administrative and Professional Staff and Foundation Board Members
- The Museum Director established a monthly staff meeting schedule for all staff that will be utilized as a training opportunity. The meetings also provide a venue for staff to collaboratively plan for upcoming events, provide information about new items in the gift shop, and to provide updates of current information about the Angola Penitentiary so that the information can be shared with visitors to the museum.
- Hired an Administrative Assistant to assist with administrative aspects of operations
- Hired a Communications and Development Coordinator to assist with marketing and education
- The Museum Director participated in, and received a certificate of completion for, an online training program, “Leadership and Management for History Organizations,” provided by the American Association of State and Local History
- For the upcoming fiscal year, the Museum Director will pursue certification as a Small Museum Pro by the American Association of State and Local History
- Allocated funding in the annual budget for staff training

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#### Goal 6: Volunteers

Objectives and Strategies: Attract and recruit dedicated trained volunteers for meaningful involvement

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

An internship to assist with Collections Management has been discussed and is under development.

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#### Goal 7: Marketing

Objectives and Strategies: Increase awareness and enhance the image of the museum

FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:

- Hosted another successful Justice Hall of Fame event and showed a slight profit for the first time.
- The Museum’s website was entirely overhauled and redesigned with improved functionality.
- A rebranding plan to develop a consistent museum brand is underway, with the board adopting the moniker The Angola Museum as a short-form (doing business as) name and The Angola Museum at the Louisiana State Penitentiary as the long form.

- The board adopted a logo icon, with the marketing committee working on incorporating other visual elements into the brand identity.
- Social media channels have been developed across the three major social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- A quarterly newsletter program is underdevelopment.
- Weekend hours of operation have been revised to reach new visitors.

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**Goal 8: Museum Awareness Campaign**  
(see Goals #4 and #7 above)

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**Goal 9: Policy and Procedure**

Objectives and Strategies: Every board committee should review policies and procedures every 3 years.

**FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:**

A formal review of all policies was initiated and completed during this fiscal period. Policies were revised as necessary to enhance operations and to reflect current practice.

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**Goal 10: Facility Upgrade**

Objectives and Strategies: Develop capital improvement plan. Allocate space and use it to meet the needs of the collections, audience, and staff, while maintaining it to ensure the safety and security of people, the collection, and the facility

**FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:**

Routine maintenance of the main museum and the RC Annex continued throughout the reporting period.

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**Goal 11: Accession/Deaccession – Update accession policies consistent with current MOUs between the Museum Foundation and the Department of Corrections**

Objectives and Strategies: Update all forms necessary for appropriate cataloging and processing of the museum collection.

**FY 18-19 Activity and Accomplishments:**

- The Collections Manager worked with the Accession/Deaccession Committee to revise policies and procedures for the accession and deaccession of items.
- The Collections Manager is in the process of thoroughly cataloging the collection.

- Items on loan from the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism's Division of Archeology were returned.
  - The loan agreement between the Museum and the Louisiana State Museum for the electric chair was renewed for a two-year period.
  - The Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections donated various procedural memoranda, rules and regulations, correspondence regarding rules and regulations from the 1970's to 2000's.
  - Various donations were accepted from individuals through the year
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For more information, visit our website:  
[angolamuseum.org](http://angolamuseum.org)

To schedule a group tour, contact:  
[angolamuseum@angolamuseum.org](mailto:angolamuseum@angolamuseum.org)  
225-655-2592

Lunch is prepared and served by offenders daily at the  
**Big House Café**