



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022

Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum
Foundation, LLC

Email: angolamuseum@angolamuseum.org

Website: www.angolamuseum.org

225.655.2592

P. O. Box 1, Angola, LA 70712



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LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY MUSEUM FOUNDATION Strategic Plan 2021-2024

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|--------------------|---|
| Our Vision | The Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation governs and supports The Angola Museum. The Foundation's vision is for The Angola Museum to become widely recognized among museum enthusiasts and the public in general as an accessible and informative archive of documents, records, and artifacts on the history of corrections in Louisiana. |
| Our Mission | The mission of the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation is to support The Angola Museum in its promotion of historical, educational, and cultural activities and experiences that are designed to document and preserve the history and development of corrections and justice in Louisiana and the historical and cultural legacy of the site of the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. We provide engaging learning experiences through meaningful and interactive exhibits and programs. We serve as a research center for scholars, journalists, museum enthusiasts, students, and others who are interested in learning about Louisiana Corrections and the State's criminal justice system. The Angola Museum, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Corrections, fosters public awareness of prison life and the important role that the Department of Corrections plays in the maintenance of a safe civil society in Louisiana. |
| Our Values | Integrity Openness and Inclusiveness Excellence Learning Innovation |
| Focus Areas | Sustainability Board of Directors Education Staff and Volunteers Marketing and Awareness Accession and Deaccession Facility Management and Planning |
| Our Goals | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and Awareness 8. Policies and Procedures 9. Facility Upgrade 10. Accession/Deaccession |

Board of Directors
FY 2021-2022

Officers

SHERYL RANATZA, President

Chairman, LA Board of Pardons & Paroles

DR. HUEY PERRY, 1st Vice-President

Professor Emeritus, Southern University, Baton Rouge

MICHAEL WYNNE, 2nd Vice-President

Retired District Manager, LA Probation & Parole, Alexandria

PERRY STAGG, Secretary

Deputy Assistant Secretary, LA Office of Juvenile Justice

BRIAN GREMILLION, Treasurer

Administrative Director, LA State Penitentiary

Directors

ANNE MARIE EASLEY, Assistant Warden, LA State Penitentiary

DAVID FLOYD, Tourism Director, W. Feliciana Parish

CATHY FONTENOT, Major, E. Baton Rouge Parish Prison

DR. MARIANNE FISHER-GIORLANDO, Professor Emerita, Grambling State University

NORRIS HENDERSON, Executive Director, VOTE-NOLA

TODD HERNANDEZ, Attorney, Zachary

TIM HOOPER, Warden, LA State Penitentiary

RONNIE JETT, Retired, Assistant Warden, LA State Penitentiary

C. B. OWEN, Retired, VP & Chief Technology Officer, USG Group

JESSE PERKINS, Retired, W. Feliciana Parish School Board

STEPHANIE PERRAULT, Cultural Resource Lead, ELOS Environmental

DR. ROBERT TOBUREN, Professor Emeritus, LA Tech University

GARY YOUNG, Deputy Commissioner, Mississippi DOC

Strategic Highlights

During the fiscal year, the museum continued to experience the effects of the pandemic. Despite those challenges, significant accomplishments were realized. Those strategic accomplishments are summarized below.

Strategic Goal: Sustainability, Development, and Funding

- The museum was the recipient of two grants (\$17,000) from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to support projects.
- The Covid-19 Payroll Protection Program loan in the amount of \$24,097 was forgiven this fiscal year.
- After having been closed for months due to the pandemic, the Big House Café re-opened in March 2022. This provides a slight revenue stream to support museum operations.
- American Queen Voyages resumed riverboat tours of the penitentiary in March. These visitors are from across the nation and are an opportunity to showcase what's happening in Louisiana's corrections system and the work being done toward rehabilitation.
- Through its social media platforms, the museum solicited donations on Giving Tuesday. Although, the response was minimal this will be an ongoing effort each year.
- The first ticketed raffle was held this year in November. Winners were drawn live on our Museum Facebook page.
- A silent auction was added to the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame in 2021 and was held again during the 2022 event. The profits from these auctions allowed the museum to break even on this event for the first time.
- The board implemented its leadership succession plan during the annual election cycle, providing for new leadership with fresh ideas and focus.
- See also financial highlights.


Strategic Goal: Recruitment and Retention of an Inclusive and Trained Board

- Developed a board composition matrix to determine current board members' talents and abilities and to identify gaps in board composition. Using the matrix, the nominating committee was able to recruit new board members to fill those gaps.
- The nominating committee charter was revised to emphasize the critical importance of the nominating and recruiting process. This process should be ongoing throughout the

year to build a pipeline of potential board members who can help the museum fulfill its mission and accomplish strategic goals.

- Each board meeting agenda now includes a board member training presentation.
- Each committee chair developed a work/action plan for their committee. These plans are to be reviewed and revised annually.

Strategic Goal: Increase Educational Opportunities

- With grant funding from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Museum produced a virtual symposium, “In Pursuit of Equal Justice”, which consisted of 90-minute sessions over a 4-week period. The program focused on race and justice during the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras, and the impact of recent reforms aimed at producing a more just criminal justice system for all Louisiana citizens. Symposium attendees were from 20 different states and 2 other countries. It was also broadcast over the prison’s TV station and is scheduled to be broadcast on the museum’s YouTube channel in FY 2023. 
- In collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the museum hosted “2017 Criminal Justice Reform: A View from the Streets”, in St. Francisville. The presentation by Andrew Hundley of the Louisiana Parole Project provided local residents little known insight into the state penitentiary and recent criminal justice reform initiatives.
- The museum hosted Dr. Josh Rothman for a presentation and book signing, “The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Trades Shaped America” at the West Feliciana Parish Library.
- The museum’s historian, Dr. Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, conducted research projects:
 - Research and photo identification and location for Dr. Benjamin Harbert’s forthcoming book about the history of prison music at Angola.
 - Research about the 1866 prison conditions in Louisiana for the Henry Louis Gates group
- The project, “Cultural & Structural Mid-20th Century Penal Reforms: A Photographic & Digital Online Database”, funded by the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Office of Historic Preservation was officially closed out in December. In partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the museum’s collection of approximately 1,500 negatives dating from the late 1940s until the late 1960s were scanned and organized for preservation. Many of the images have been posted to the

Louisiana Digital Library and are available for public viewing (<https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/ull-lsp%3Acollection>).

- The museum hosted an exhibition of a local artist's rendering of John James Audubon's most famous work during the spring symposium hosted by the Friends of West Feliciana Parish.

Strategic Goal: Enhance Volunteer Opportunities

- Through communication with registrants for the symposium, Dr. Shelia Curran Bernard volunteered to transcribe the 2022 symposium sessions and add closed-captioning to the video recordings.
- Although there was interest expressed by local residents in volunteering at the museum, we were not successful in recruiting new volunteers to work at the museum. The remote location of the museum and the high price of fuel was cited as a reason.

Strategic Goal: Policies and Procedures

- Museum staff to implemented a plan for annual policy reviews. Each policy will be reviewed on a regular basis as indicated in policy. During the fiscal year there were several policy updates and revisions approved by the board. This process in ongoing.

Strategic Goal: Facility Upgrade

- There were no significant upgrades to the existing museum facility this fiscal year. We anticipate relocation to other prison property (Tunica School complex) during FY 2023. A special committee has been appointed to plan for space utilization at the new location - to include space for proper storage of the collections, exhibit space, office space, education/library space at a minimum.

Financial Highlights

As we continue to recover from significant loss of revenue during the pandemic, we used the opportunity to review our internal controls and processes. Fiscal management policy enhancements are listed below.

- Definitions added.
- Requires documentation of Museum Director's review and approval of bank statements prior to submission to CPA for reconciliation.

- Requires bank reconciliation reports to be submitted to the Finance Committee monthly for review.
- Require budget adjustments to be approved by the full board, upon recommendation of Finance Committee.
- Requires Museum Director to submit income/expense statements to the Finance Committee by the 20th of the month for the previous month's activity.
- Requires Museum Director to reconcile any discrepancies within seven (7) days of receipt of CPA financial statements.
- Establishes an operating reserve and methods to calculate the amount of the reserve; establishes a process to request use of operating reserve.
- Clearly defines independent audit requirements.
- Establishes an internal audit process.
- Adds requirement that the fiscal management policy be reviewed every 3 years, at a minimum.

The CPA firm that performed accounting functions for the Foundation retired in December. The Finance Committee engaged the services of a new local CPA firm in St. Francisville. The conversion process began in February and was completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Big House Café operations were suspended at various time during the year but re-opened on a regular basis in March 2022. The café provides dine-in or take-out hot lunch meals or sandwiches to employees of the penitentiary. With a reservation, tour groups can also purchase a meal from the Big House Café.

Grants received during the fiscal year

| Grantor | Amount | Purpose |
|--|----------|------------------------|
| Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities | \$ 7,000 | Symposium |
| Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities | \$10,000 | Salaries (Covid CARES) |
| Louisiana Office of Historic Preservation* | \$ 3,854 | Digitization project |
| SBA Payroll Protection Program, Phase 2 | \$24,097 | Loan forgiveness |

**Phase 2 (grant closed)*

Other miscellaneous revenue

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Dr. Benjamin Harbert | \$ 700 | Research |
| Henry Louis Gates-Finding Your Roots | \$ 350 | Research |
| American Queen Voyages | \$ 8,280 | Riverboat tours |

Operating Highlights

Over the past fiscal year, The Angola Museum experienced yet another reduction in staff. With the loss of anticipated revenues during the fiscal year, the board made the very difficult decision to eliminate the Marketing & Development Coordinator position. As a result, lack of adequate staff continues to be a daily challenge. There are currently only two staff positions allocated for the museum operation, and one staff position assigned to the Big House Café. There is no relief factor that allows for coverage during staff absences, nor is there currently a volunteer pool from which to draw for assistance.

The staff shortage leaves little time, if any, for the Museum Director's important responsibility of relationship building in the community. Community involvement is the foundation on which a volunteer base, as well as a consistent donor pool is built -- both of which are essential to "keeping the doors open". More funding is necessary to expand operations to meet strategic goals. Staffing cannot be expanded without the funding to do so.

However, despite these tremendous difficulties there have been successes, some of which are noted above, others are discussed below.

In August of 2021 the museum launched its first newsletter, "*The Angola Exhibitor*". The first edition was sent to over 900 subscribers from around the globe. This is a very large number of subscribers for such a young publication. The newsletter was intended to be a quarterly publication, but with the loss of the Marketing & Development Coordinator, the publication of the FY 2022 newsletters has been delayed. With the assistance and input of board members of the foundation, plans are to resume publication in FY 2023.

2022 LOUISIANA JUSTICE HALL OF FAME

The Angola Museum hosted an incredibly successful event in its 2022 Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame (LJHOF). Since 2005, the Angola Museum has hosted a prestigious awards ceremony to celebrate individuals and families that have made a significant impact in the Louisiana justice system. The LJHOF evening event was

revamped to include a silent auction that has helped defray costs. Donations for the auction were made by staff, board members, as well as some of this year's inductees. This year's ceremony was praised by many supporters as being the most successful LJHOF event to date.

The board of directors and The Angola Museum are extremely proud of its accomplishments during this fiscal year, despite the significant economic challenges. The board and museum staff look forward to more positive things to come in the future!

Looking Ahead

We are excited to announce we are soon moving to a larger facility! Stay tuned....

- Our new facility will be a great opportunity for growth. We have a plan to completely revamp our museum floor to provide a more interactive and immersive experience for our guests that will showcase our collection items in gallery type exhibits.
- New Leadership! The Board Leadership succession plan was implemented and began with the 2022 election cycle in April. New board members take office on July 1st. We look forward to working with old and new board members on exciting plans for FY 2022-2023.
- School tours will resume on a limited basis in FY 2022-2023. For more information or to schedule a tour contact the museum at 225-655-2592 or angolamuseum@angolamuseummm.org.

Board of Directors FY 2022-2023

Officers

JESSE L. PERKINS, President

Retired, West Feliciana Parish School Board

PERRY STAGG, 1st Vice-President

Deputy Warden of Operations/Security, Wilkinson County Correctional Center

GARY YOUNG, 2nd Vice-President

Retired, Deputy Commission Mississippi DOC

CATHY FONTENOT, Secretary

Corrections Consultant

BRIAN GREMILLION, Treasurer

Administrative Director, LA State Penitentiary

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TIM HOOPER, Warden, LA State Penitentiary

RONNIE JETT, Retired, Assistant Warden, LA State Penitentiary

ERIC LANE, Partner, Gerry Lane Enterprises

AMANDA MOORER, Educator & Entrepreneur

C. B. OWEN, Retired, VP & Chief Technology Officer, USG Group

FRANKIE STEED PIERSON, Entrepreneur

DR. ROBERT TOBUREN, Professor Emeritus, LA Tech University

DYVAR ANDERSON WRIGHT, Info Technology Director, W. Feliciana Parish Government

More information about the Foundation and The Angola Museum can be found on the web at
www.angolamuseum.org

Mandi Sanchez, Director

Mandi.sanchez@la.gov

Roland Robinson, Administrative Assistant/Operations

rolandarobinson@angolamuseum.org

OR CALL US
225.655.2592