



**Friends of WWOZ, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 13, 2016

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation
1205 N Rampart, New Orleans, LA 70116

Board Members Present: C. J. Blache, Richard Cortizas, Belinda Lewis Batiste, Roxy Wright, Ruth Chouest, Douglas Hammel, Deborah Harkins, James Hutchinson (via telephone), Courtney Katzenstein, David Kerstein, Peter Laborde, Ronald McClain, Dr. Gabou Mendy, Mary Johnston Norriss, J Pegues, Leonard Smith III

Board Members Absent: Jay Banks, Marc Barnes, Gerald Billes, Karen Nabonne Coaxum, Bob Edmundson, Carol Solomon, Karen Solomon

Foundation Staff Present: Don Marshall

WWOZ Staff Present: David Ankers, Scott Borne, Arthur Cohen, David Freedman, KaTrina Griffin, Leslie Molson, Pearl Ricks, Beau Royster, Pamela Wood

Members of the Public Present: Al Colón, Don Paul, Grace Perrine

1. **Call to Order.** Mr. Blache called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Quorum.** Mr. Blache declared the presence of a quorum, with 16 of 23 Board members participating.
3. **Minutes.** Ms. Batiste moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2016 board meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. **Public Commentary.** Mr. Blache invited public commentary. She advised that a total of 20 minutes would be allotted for public commentary, with that time to be divided equally among commenters.



**Friends of WWOZ, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016**

- a. Grace Perrine.** Ms. Perrine introduced herself as a volunteer music librarian at WWOZ. She mentioned that a member a public had asked for more transparency from the board at the April 9 meeting, and expressed a desire to know the names and occupations of the members of the WWOZ Board.
 - b. Don Paul.** Mr. Paul produced an email that he sent to the Vice President of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and also a document suggesting possible content programming for WWOZ-2, which is appended to these minutes.
- 5. Chief Operating Officer's Report.** Mr. Cohen referred the board to the Chief Operating Officer's Report document distributed by circulation prior to the meeting and included in the board meeting materials packet. Mr. Cohen reported that he is focused on the FY 2017 budget, personnel issues, and is moving forward with communication involving outside organizations. Mr. Cohen reported that the WWOZ Video unit will move from Basin Street Station to WWOZ's office space at the New Orleans Healing Center on August 1. Mr. Cortizas asked for an update on the status of the extra space in WWOZ's main office, as promised by the French Market Corporation. Mr. Cohen assured the board that the expansion is proceeding apace. Mr. Pegues asserted that in his opinion, the renewed attention to the show hosts has resulted in improvements on the air. Mr. Cohen reported that WWOZ staff had attended the Preservation Resource Center's 16th annual "Ladies in Red" gala, at which he accepted an award for WWOZ. Ms. Wright inquired why no WWOZ Board members were invited to attend. Mr. Cohen stated that the invitation was received at the last minute. Ms. Harkins noted that several New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation board members were present. Mr. Blache asked that WWOZ staff make it a point to invite board members to future events. Mr. Cohen introduced KaTrina Griffin, WWOZ's new Membership Director, to the board. Ms. Harkins moved to accept the Chief Operating Officer's Report, and Mr. Pegues seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 6. Chief Strategic Officer's Report.** Mr. Freedman reported that he is still looking at possible sites for WWOZ's relocation. He affirmed that the process will take at least two years. Mr. McClain suggested hiring a commercial realtor, and Mr. Freedman pointed out that several realtors have been assisting WWOZ. Mr. Blache reminded the board that realtors are on the WWOZ Real Estate Committee. Mr. Pegues moved to accept the Chief



**Friends of WWOZ, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016**

Strategic Officer's report, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Committee Reports.

- a. Development Committee.** Ms. Wood reported that all membership department staff attended the AFP Greater New Orleans Annual Fundraising Conference on June 16, 2016. Ms. Johnston Norris asked why major giving is lagging behind the projected budget. Mr. Cohen acknowledged that development will not hit its goals for the current year due to the major personnel upheaval and assured her that FY 2017's revenue projections will be more realistic. Ms. Batiste moved to accept the Development Committee report, and Mr. Cortizas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b. Legal Committee Report.** Ms. Wright addressed the legal committee and stated that she had some concerns regarding the WWOZ Board's adherence to its bylaws of the WWOZ Board, and whether the term limits set forth in the bylaws have been observed. Ms. Wright also stated that she had no idea how she came to be appointed to the board and how she came to be the designated secretary. Ms. Wright asked for clarification of her role on the board and of her role as secretary.
- c. Finance Committee Report.** Mr. Royster referred the board to the May 2016 financial statements included in the board materials packet. He explained that WWOZ is ahead of prior year income, but behind the budgeted pace through May 31. Ms. Batiste reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the meeting and recommends that the full board adopt a generalized, provisional FY 2017 budget for operational purposes. Mr. Royster explained that the board will not be able to meet prior to the end of WWOZ's fiscal year, and that the provisional budget will be replaced with a more detailed FY 2017 budget for board review prior to the October board meeting. He asserted that the provisional budget submitted contains a realistic revenue projection and materially, no new spending. Mr. McClain moved that the board accept the provisional operating budget for FY 2017 as presented, with the proviso that the FY 2017 budget will be reviewed and voted upon in October. Dr. Mendy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



**Friends of WWOZ, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016**

- 8. Ongoing Business.** Dr. Mendy broached discussion of the WWOZ Community Advisory Board Charter, which was circulated to the Board for adoption by email on June 17, 2016. The Board voted to adopt the charter, with 14 “yea” votes and one (1) “nay” vote. Dr. Mendy asked what the process will be for WWOZ Board members to nominate persons to the Community Advisory Board (CAB). Ms. Harkins responded that she intends to consult with WWOZ’s counsel to determine how best to proceed. Dr. Mendy stated that is important that CAB members understand their duties and what is expected of them. Dr. Mendy then pointed out that currently the WWOZ Board has 23 persons, whereas the Friends of WWOZ Bylaws call for no more than 21 persons. He asserted that the bylaws need to be corrected, or that the size of the board be diminished when terms expire in November. Mr. Blache stated that members have discussed restructuring the WWOZ Board, and that the board will be a part of the overall restructuring of WWOZ. Dr. Mendy suggested that the Board consider holding a strategy meeting prior to November. Ms. Katzenstein concurred, adding that the board retreat assess the progress of WWOZ’s new management; revise a strategic plan; and focus on educating the board with regard to best practices. Dr. Mendy suggested that the retreat be held in September. Mr. Blache expressed concern that September was too soon, given that the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Board will be appointing new members to the WWOZ Board November. Mr. McClain moved that the board schedule a board strategic planning retreat no later than December 31, 2016 and Ms. Katzenstein seconded the motion. The motion passed with 15 “yea” votes and one (1) “nay” vote by Dr. Mendy.
- 9. New Business.** The Board did not discuss any new business.
- 10. Set Next Meeting Date.** The WWOZ Board set the next meeting for September 7, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.
- 11. Adjournment.** Mr. Pegues moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kerstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
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Appendix A

Suggestions for Programming on WWOZ's HD Channel—WWOZ 2

These suggestions come from talking with Maryse Déjean, Gabou Mendy, Kalamu ya Salaam, James Borders, Aristide Phillips, Matthew Shilling, Roger Lewis, Grace Perrine, Cyril Neville, Gaynielle Neville, and others

Currently WWOZ's second channel has only 18 of 144 potential hours per week filled with a live show-host. The following are suggestions for kinds of New Orleans' or New Orleans'-related music that might be represented on WWOZ's Channel 2.

Four basic thoughts serve as basis for the suggestions.

One, New Orleans 2016 is like New Orleans 1916 in being a largely under-exposed center for transformational change in music and other arts.

Two, New Orleans music and other arts have a global reach that remains in large parts unrepresented by WWOZ's programming.

Three, music and from New Orleans is playing 24/7 on Continents reached by wwoz.org around the world.

Four, generations under age 40 are creating music and other art in New Orleans that's in large parts not yet represented on WWOZ.

The potential categories two-hour shows are WWOZ 2 include:

1. Neo-Soul
2. Mardi Gras Indians
3. New Orleans' avant jazz composers and improvisers
4. Caribbean contemporary
5. Afro-Punk

6. Electronic Dance Music

7. Pre-1990 Hip Hop

8. New Orleans Hip-Hop

9. Spoken Word

10. Slam Poetry

11. Bounce

12. Neo-Folk and Americana

13. African contemporary

14. Brass-Bands unto Orchestras

Regarding arts and community-minded that might be given a platform on WWOZ:

15. Community gardens

16. Visual arts on the streets and in studios

17. Education that provides employment in new technology and entertainment industries

18. Coastal preservation and non-carbon-burning forms of energy

Don Paul of the *Committee to Save WWOZ for New Orleans' Music, Communities, and Cultures*