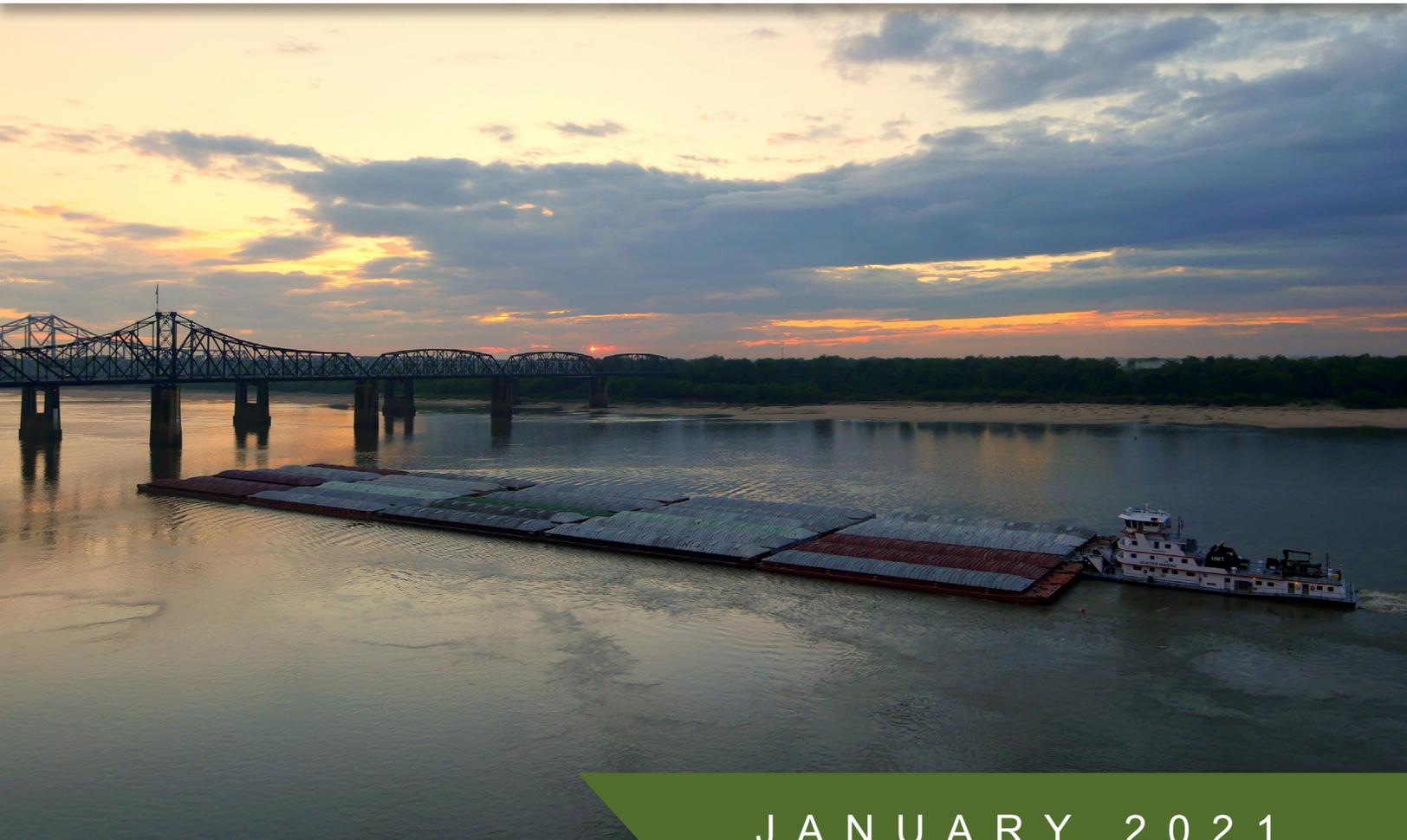




NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



JANUARY 2021

LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA INITIATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE
HISTORY

LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA INITIATIVE

Administrative History



JANUARY 2021



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Under Contract to the National Park Service, South Atlantic-Gulf Region (Interior Region 2)

LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA INITIATIVE

Administrative History



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI) was established in 1994 under Public Law (P.L.) 103-433 to assist with implementation of the Delta Initiatives Report, which called for government action on natural resource protection, preservation of regional cultural and history, and the enhancement of educational and other opportunities for Delta residents.

While the need for the initiative remains unchanged, the program can report many successes in achieving the goals established by the Lower Mississippi Delta Commission report. In its first 26 years, the initiative has actively worked to bring archeology, history, natural resources, cultural resources, heritage, and tourism projects to the region, local communities, and local organizations. Some 240 cultural entities and programs were funded between 1997 and 2019, with funds totaling \$3,265,061 disbursed in support of the initiative. Accomplishments of the program, including prescribed reports identified in the legislation, are summarized in Appendix A. The Administrative History documents project activity in all states of the region. Through these projects, the initiative has supported local cultural entities in their work toward research, interpretation, and preservation goals for the region's cultural resources.

The LMDI Board of Directors (Board) and the Cultural Resources Program at the South Atlantic-Gulf Region (legacy Southeast Region) have been very active from the onset of the program. The initiative has led to partnerships with multiple organizations in the Delta region in support of the preservation and enjoyment of resources, and enhancement of tourism and the local economy. The initiative has the notable strength of fostering connections among national park units and diverse communities throughout the Lower Mississippi Delta region. These relationships enable communities that have had no prior interaction with the National Park Service to become partners with the agency, a success that fosters greater awareness of the agency in areas where the National Park Service has limited presence. Inclusion of National Park Service units that are located outside the LMDI region, such as Gateway Arch National Park, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Lincoln Home National Historic Site, reinforce the importance of agency outreach and has resulted in numerous successful LMDI projects within the program's boundary. The outreach aspect of the program best demonstrates that the National Park Service serves not only communities within which its units exist, but the nation as a whole. Continuation of the LMDI program into the future remains important to preserve icons of American culture and history and promote heritage tourism--key aspects of economic advancement and growth as envisioned by the Lower Mississippi Delta Commission.

In response to administrative changes within NPS contracting and financial assistance processes, a decision was made to undertake an operational reset of the program in fiscal year 2021. The path adopted by the LMDI Board was to enter into a Financial Assistance agreement with a non-profit philanthropic partner to jointly administer the program. Through the additional resources available under this arrangement, the Board seeks to achieve long-term operational improvements in financial transaction strategy, web visibility, program outreach, program transparency, proposal solicitation, proposal



tracking, and documentation of program outcomes. In the future, the program may also weigh the potential of a challenge cost share concept; however, this would not be a focus initially.



Chapter One

Chronology of Program Activities



INTRODUCTION

Emergence of Public Law 103-433

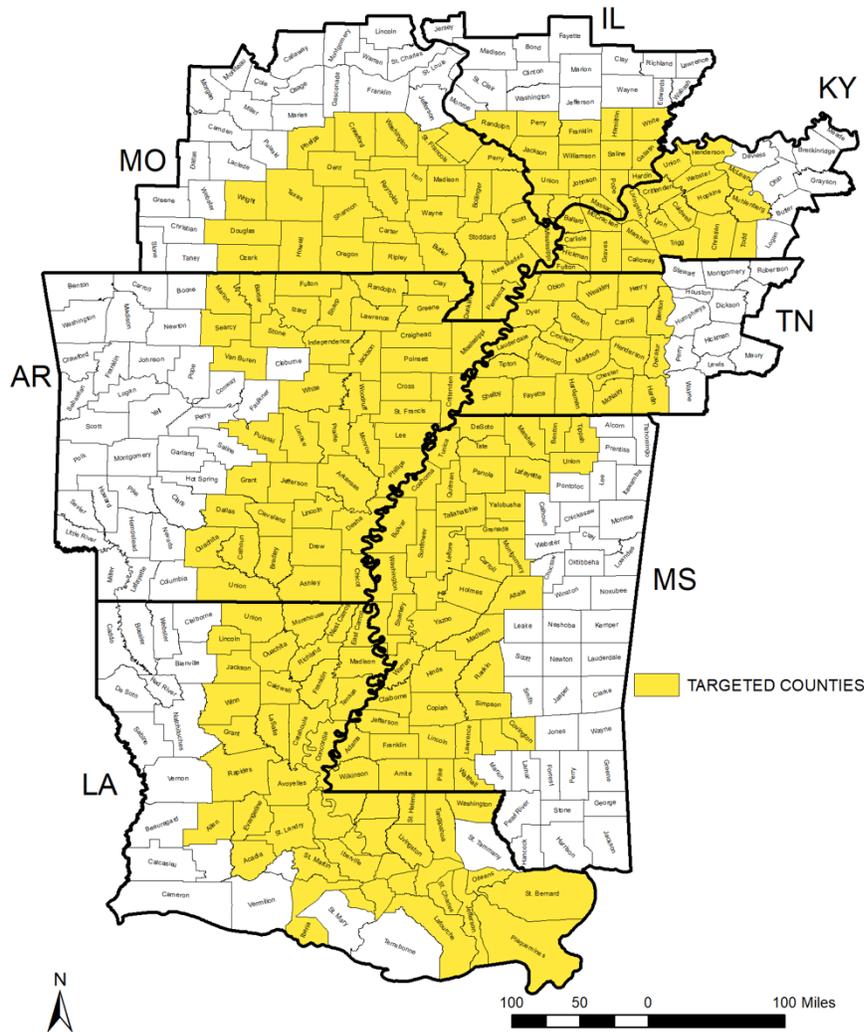
The 100th Congress (1987-1989) was instrumental in creating the foundation for the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI). In March 1988 Senator Dale Bumpers from Arkansas introduced S. 2246 the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act which was intended to establish the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission in the Lower Mississippi Delta states of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee (GovTrack.us., 2021a). The Commission was to identify and research “economic development, infrastructure, employment, transportation, resource development, education, health care, housing and recreation needs” and create a ten-year plan to address them (GovTrack.us., 2021a). Unfortunately, this bill never received a vote (GovTrack.us., 2021a). A similar bill, H.R. 4373 was introduced to the House of Representatives (House) in April 1988, by Representative Mike Espy of Mississippi, but also did not receive a vote (GovTrack.us., 2021b). H.R. 4373 maintained a resource development component but focused more heavily on economic development (GovTrack.us., 2021b). Representative Mary Rose Oakar from Ohio introduced a version of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act, H.R. 5283, in September 1988 (GovTrack.us., 2021c). This version maintained the economic focus of the previous bill but also did not receive a vote (GovTrack.us., 2021c). Meanwhile, Representative Jamie Whitten from Mississippi, introduced H.R. 5378, another version of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act, in September 1988, which again did not receive a vote (GovTrack.us., 2021d). A day after H.R. 5378 was introduced, Senator Bumpers introduced a complimentary bill to the Senate, S. 2836, that also did not receive a vote (GovTrack.us., 2021e).

In June 1988 H.R. 4784 was introduced to the House to provide appropriations to rural development, agriculture, and related agencies’ programs (GovTrack.us., 2021f). After passing in the House, the bill was passed in the Senate with revisions and returned to the House to review and approve (GovTrack.us., 2021f). A committee of House and Senate members was formed to resolve the differences and by September 1988 both the Senate and the House had passed the same version of the bill. In October 1988, the bill was signed as Public Law (P.L.) 100-460 the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The act provided funding to multiple entities for agricultural operations and research; rural development programs; conservation planning, operations, and research; food and nutrition programs; international agricultural programs and operations; and watershed protection and flood prevention projects; among other things. (GovTrack.us., 2021f). One part of the act provisioned funds to carry out the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act as stated in H.R. 5378 and S. 2836 (Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1988). This established the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission and designated 219 counties across the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR) (see Figure 1) (California Desert Land Protection Act, 1994).

Figure 1: Map of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Designated by the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission



Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission



Note. Adapted from United States Soil Conservation Service & National Cartographic Center, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/92682558/>

The aim of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission was to examine the Lower Mississippi Delta Region and identify people’s needs, problems, and opportunities in terms of human capital development, natural and physical assets, private enterprise, and the environment (California Desert Land Protection Act, 1994; Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, 1990). Upon completion of the study in 1990, the Commission published a report, *The Delta Initiatives: Realizing the Dream, Fulfilling the Potential*, which identified 68 issues and goals and made 400 recommendations including many pertaining to the protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources, and the development of educational opportunities (Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, 1990). To address the needs identified in the report, Senator J. Bennett Johnston from Louisiana sponsored S. 2251, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act Amendments of 1994, in June 1994 (GovTrack.us., 2021g). This bill



authorized the establishment of a Delta Energy Technology and Business Development Center, energy conservation projects at schools and hospitals, creation of opportunities for minority colleges and universities and potential students to participate in energy-related work, a research and demonstration program related to the cost of integrated biomass energy systems in the Delta, the weatherization of low-income housing, and funding to complete these activities (GovTrack.us., 2021g). This bill was passed by the Senate but not by the House (GovTrack.us., 2021g). Senator Johnston also sponsored S. Amendment 1622 to S. 21, the California Desert Land Protection Act, in April 1994, that instructed the secretary of the interior to address needs in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (Congress.gov, n.d.). This amendment was approved (Congress.gov, n.d.). The California Desert Land Protection Act was passed as Public Law 103-433 on October 31, 1994. This act created the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.

The law establishing the LMDI required the development of a series of studies, plans, and a program outlined in Appendix A to be submitted to Congress (California Desert Land Protection Act, 1994; NPS, 1995b). The legislation also authorized cooperative agreements, technical assistance, financial assistance, and grants for several of the sections summarized in Table 1. (California Desert Land Protection Act, 1994; NPS, 1995b).

Table 1: Legislatively Authorized Activities and Associated Sections

Legislatively Authorized Activity	Legislative Section
Grants to states to maintain and expand public roads to allow access to nationally significant sites recommended in the study and to implement recommendations in the recreation, interpretation, and visitor use plan.	Section 1103b6
Planning grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region to help small, emerging, minority, and rural museums create long-term plans for operation.	Section 1104e1
Implementation grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region to work with State Museum Associations to provide grants to small, emerging, minority, and rural museums with a financial need to train staff, enhance exhibits, ensure high standard collections, develop educational outreach programs, or promote tourism.	Section 1104e1
Grants to State Humanities Councils to update and streamline the State Works Progress Administration guides and develop one regional guide.	Section 1104e1
Technical assistance and/or grants to State Humanities Councils, State Museum Associations, and State Arts Councils in the Delta Region to assess institution needs and to provide small, emerging, minority, and rural museums with administrative, planning, and technical assistance or assessment grants to help preserve literature, art, or musical heritage in the Delta Region.	Section 1104e2
Technical and financial assistance for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to survey sites and structures on campuses for designation on the National Register of Historic Places, as a National Historic Landmark, or another appropriate designation.	Section 1105a
Technical and financial assistance for HBCUs for historic site stabilization, preservation, and interpretation.	Section 1105b
Cooperative agreements with Delta Region states, State Archaeological Surveys, and Regional Archaeological Centers located at higher education institutions for completion of archaeological surveys, inventories, and site stabilization.	Section 1106a3
Technical assistance and grants to private landowners to stabilize identified sites on private property and to develop recommendations for designation as a National Landmark or other appropriate designation.	Section 1106b



Cooperative agreements with Delta Region states, State Archaeological Surveys, and Regional Archaeological Centers to create a 10-year plan to stabilize, preserve, and interpret archaeological sites identified as significant.	Section 1106c
Grants and technical assistance to qualified tribal, government, and non-government bodies and individuals to complete program elements including research, interpretation, and preservation of historic and archeological resources.	Section 1107c1
Grants and financial and technical assistance to qualified tribal, government, and non-government bodies and individuals to conserve and protect historic and archeological resources in the Delta Region.	Section 1107c2

¹ Appendix B: Public Law 103-433 Title XI - Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives

To ensure the completion of all items within the legislation, the National Park Service (NPS) was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as the managing agency of the LMDI (NPS, 1994). Robert Baker, regional director of the Southeast Regional Office (SERO), was named as the primary NPS contact and all Department of Interior (DOI) agencies were requested to identify an employee in a leadership position in their agency to serve as a liaison to the program and assist in the implementation of the legislation as needed (NPS, 1994). In addition, the Midwest and Southwest Regions of the NPS that both had states within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region were involved to the extent that any actions pertained to their states (NPS, 1994).

Early Program Years

After the legislation was passed, the National Park Service sought to define a way forward. The first action that was achieved was a review and synopsis of the legislation. This helped to guide the development of a briefing report to outline proposed actions for the first three years and alternative strategies.

The plan in the 1994 briefing report was to create an office in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region which could operate the program; address Section 1103, the study of important natural, recreational, historical or prehistorical, and cultural lands, waters, places, and structures within the Delta Region since that was the largest and most overarching study defined in the legislation; and identify existing grants programs to fund the program components of the legislation (NPS, 1994). Given the challenge of reorganizing existing funding, the expectation was that grant funding programs would take a few years to set up and implement. Since fiscal year 1995 appropriations were already approved when the legislation was passed, the earliest that the program could expect to receive funding was October 1995 (NPS, 1994).

In the 1994 briefing report, the significant amount of time needed to develop and operate the program was recognized and an alternative management strategy was proposed. The alternative plan suggested the development of an organization similar to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) that would include the governors from each of the seven states and a co-chair appointed by the president (NPS, 1994). Similar to the ARC, the LMDI would receive an annual appropriation from Congress which would be distributed to each state to fund programs. It was recognized that the alternative plan would take longer to develop and might ultimately require additional

¹ Appendix B: Public Law 103-433 Title XI - Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives



legislation, but would allow for state input, a clearly defined program, and a way to provision funding (NPS, 1994). The estimated cost of the first three years of the alternative program approach was \$21,300,000 for establishing and operating an office and providing grants for legislative elements including studies, programs, and technical assistance (NPS, 1994). The NPS management plan and alternative management plan were submitted to Senator J. Bennett Johnston for approval in 1994. Ultimately, the NPS model for program management was chosen.

After meetings in 1995, including the predecessor to what is now the annual meeting of superintendents in Oxford, MS, a vision statement for the new program was chosen. The vision emphasized improving the quality of life through

1. strengthening and building institutions that preserve, research, teach, and present the culture of the Delta,
2. enriching the lives of those in the Delta culturally, economically, and educationally,
3. building a web among cultural and ethnic groups of the Delta,
4. building and sustaining partnerships, and
5. establishing the people's connections to place, time, other people, and their heritage (NPS, 1995b, p.1).

By this point it was decided that Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA) would serve as temporary headquarters for the LMDI (Hartwig, 1995). The superintendent at JELA was chosen to lead the program office, with support from a contact at the Southeast Region (Hartwig, 1995). Superintendents from NPS units within the states were chosen to represent their state and be responsible for project communications within their state (NPS, 1995b). Since some of the states were only partially part of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, they were combined. Overall six superintendents were chosen to represent Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois/Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee (see Table 2) (NPS, 1995b).

Table 2: State LMDI Representatives

State	LMDI State Representative	Position Title	NPS Unit
Arkansas	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO
Kentucky	Ron Switzer	Superintendent	Mammoth Cave National Park (MACA)
Illinois/Missouri	Gary Easton	Superintendent	JEFF
Louisiana	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Mississippi	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC
Tennessee	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL

The National Park Service's Denver Service Center (DSC) was designated the managing entity for studies and reports under the legislation while the System Support Office (SSO) was identified as the entity to complete programs and projects outlined in the legislation (NPS, 1995b).



In addition, park superintendents at the 1995 Oxford meeting developed themes to address aspects of the legislation and named superintendents and staff responsible for each theme (see Table 3) (NPS, 1995a; NPS, 1995b). Records of the 1995 Oxford meeting are silent on why the LMDI Board of Directors (Board) elected to use this organizational approach. From the distance of time, it appears that the Board may have been borrowing the structure of the legislation as an organizing device for the new program.

Table 3: Legislative Themes, Associated Tasks, and Responsible Representatives

Legislative Theme	Tasks	LMDI Lead	Position Title	NPS Unit	Legislative Section
Archeology	Mound study; preservation of the Louisiana mounds	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	Gulf Coast Cluster System Support Office (GCSO)	Sections 1106 /1107
Civil War	Vicksburg campaign; Corinth; Brices Cross Roads	Bill Nichols	Superintendent	Vicksburg National Military Park (VICK)	Sections 1103/1107
Communication/ Marketing	Development of contacts, duties, and marketing; a cooperative agreement with Center for the Study of Southern Culture; Mississippi Corridor Heritage study; organization of the LMDI and an implementation plan	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA	Section 1106
Education/History	Historic black colleges and universities archeological study; education programs	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	Shiloh National Military Park (SHIL)	Section 1105
Folkways	A southern culture conference; an African American heritage tourism conference; Nesbitt/Riley family reunion; American Indian culture; a music program	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	Arkansas Post National Memorial (ARPO)	Section 1104
Natural Resources	Not defined	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA	Section 1103
Tourism	Heritage tourism; tourism connections	Dan Brown	Superintendent	Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR)	Section 1103



Transportation	Highway 84 and Camino Real study; integration of recreation trails and biking	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	Natchez National Historical Park (NATC)	Section 1103
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The National Park Service recognized the requirement and need for a vast number of partners including partners at local, state, and federal levels, across academic institutions, government entities, and non-profit groups as well as the inclusion of residents in the region. The California Desert Land Protection Act (1994) specifically mandated the involvement of the following organizations in the LMDI:

1. Colleges and Universities in the Delta (Section 1104);
2. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Sections 1104, 1105);
3. Institute of Museum Services (Section 1104);
4. Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center (Sections 1103, 1104);
5. National Endowment for the Arts (Section 1104);
6. National Endowment for the Humanities (Section 1104);
7. National Trust for Historic Preservation (Section 1103);
8. Regional Archaeological Centers (Section 1106);
9. Smithsonian Institution (Section 1104);
10. Soil Conservation Service (Section 1106);
11. State Archaeological Surveys (Section 1106);
12. State Arts Councils (Section 1104);
13. State Humanities Councils (Section 1104);
14. State Museum Associations (Section 1104);
15. States of the Delta Region (Sections 1103, 1104, 1106);
16. Tribal leaders in the Delta Region (Section 1104);
17. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Section 1106);
18. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 1106); and
19. U.S. Forest Service (Section 1106).

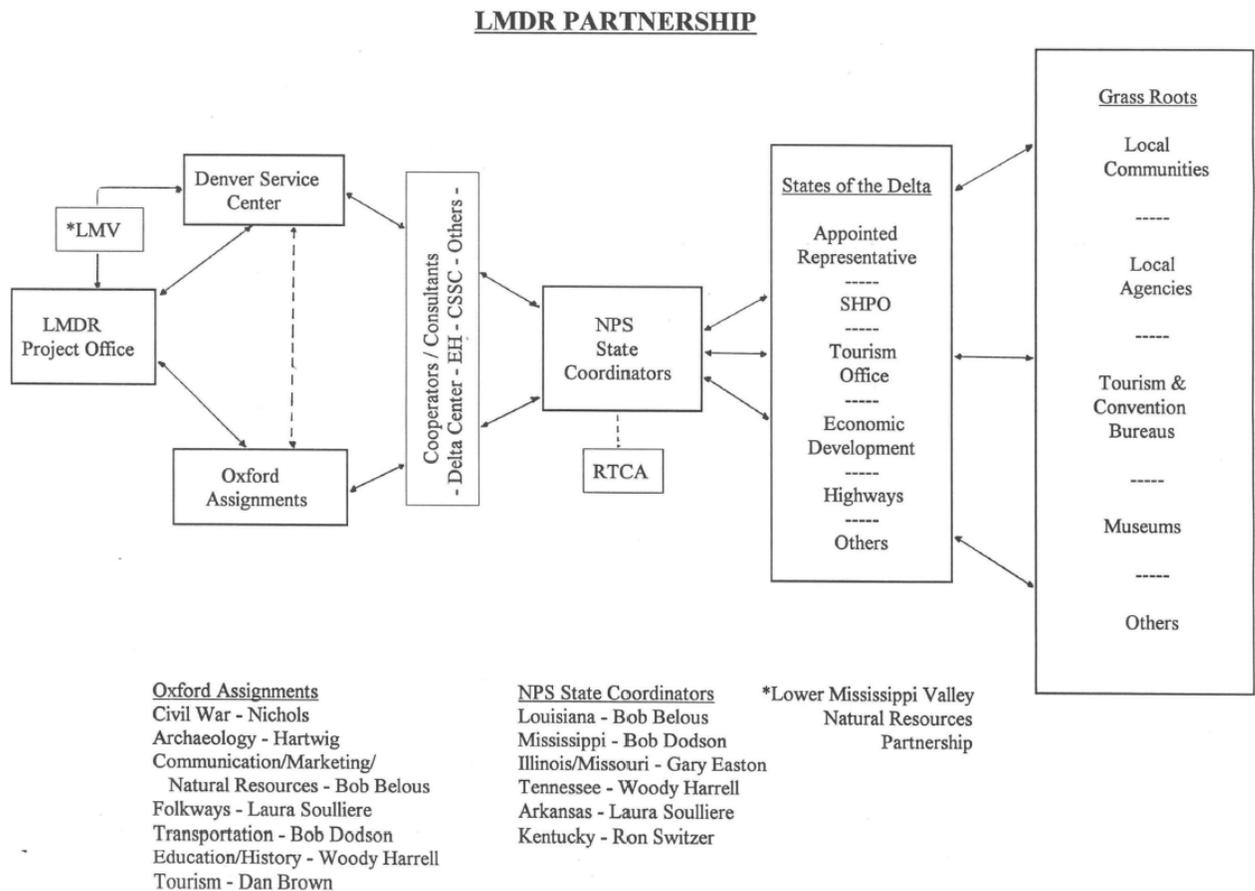
The NPS actively worked to develop connections with these partners and a network to assist with and advise in the implementation of the legislation in the region. A letter was sent out to all state governors asking for assistance in the first year to develop a 5-year plan for implementation (NPS, 1994). In addition, letters were sent to the U.S. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Science, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify an employee in a leadership position in their agency to serve as a liaison to the program and assist in the implementation of the legislation as needed (NPS, 1994).

The 1995 plan for program operations outlined six levels led by the LMDI program office in the LMDR (see Figure 2). The LMDI office at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve managed the reporting of the Denver Service Center as well as the individuals



leading the legislative themes defined at the meeting in Oxford, MS. The DSC and legislative initiative leads led interactions with consultants working on projects and regional cooperating organizations or NPS groups. The regional cooperators and project consultants interacted with the NPS designated state coordinators who were responsible for working with state entities such as elected officials, the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), tourism offices, economic development and transportation at the state level, and other relevant agencies. Communication with local organizations such as museums, tourism and convention bureaus, or communities was orchestrated through the states. At all levels two-way communication was emphasized.

Figure 2: LMDI Roles and Partnership Chart



Note. Paul Hartwig, National Park Service, 1995b

During the early years a parallel effort, the Mississippi Delta Outreach Education and Preservation Initiative, led by Robert Dodson of Natchez National Historical Park, who was also heavily involved in the LMDI as the transportation theme lead, was ongoing and had considerable overlap with LMDI (Schneckenburger, 1996). Updates on this program were included in briefing reports in 1996 and 1997 and thus are included in this report due to their relevance to the LMDI.

Program Management

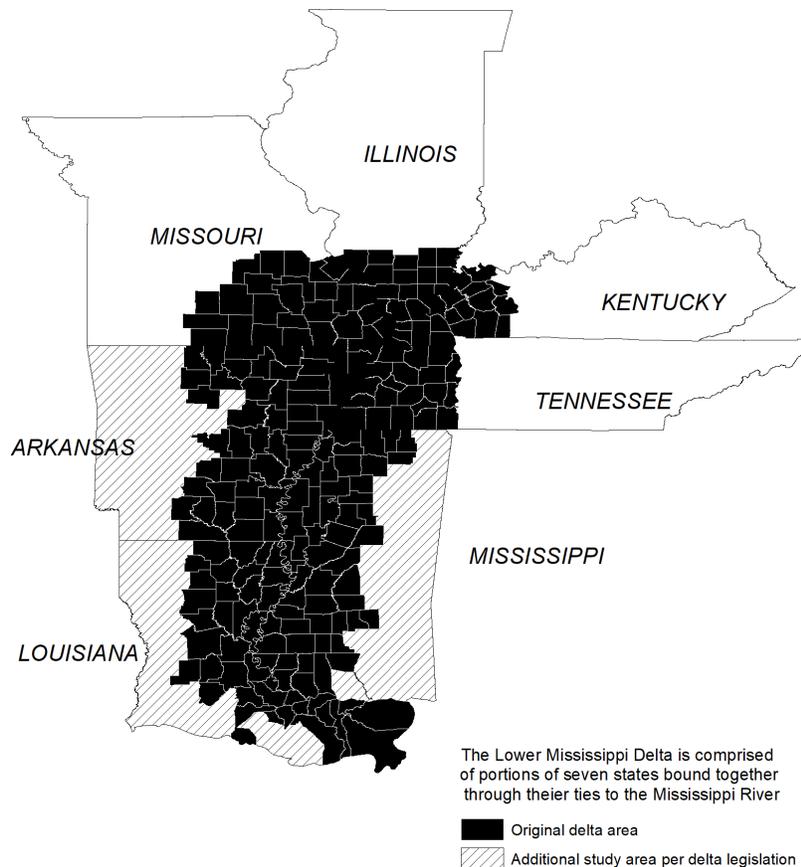


Program management has only evolved slightly since the early program years.

Participating Entities

Seven states were included in the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative. According to the legislation, any state in which more than half of the geographical area of the state was included based on included counties, the entire state would be considered a part of the initiative. This resulted in a total of 309 counties (and parishes) covering the entirety of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi, 29 southeast Missouri counties, 16 southern Illinois counties, 21 western Kentucky counties, and 21 western Tennessee counties encompassed by the LMDI (LMDI, 1995). The map in Figure 3 outlines the expanded area included in the LMDI from the original Lower Mississippi Delta Region as defined by the legislation establishing the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission (P.L. 100-460).

Figure 3: Map of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative in 1994



Note. Adapted from National Park Service, 1994



When the legislation passed the Lower Mississippi Delta area fell into three different NPS regional offices: the Southeast Regional Office, the Midwest Regional Office, and the Southwest Regional Office. In October 1995, the Southwest Regional Office was closed and Louisiana became a part of the Southeast Region (Blythe, 2012). Since the secretary of interior had designated primary authority to the Southeast Region, the Southeast Region plays a more significant role in the management of the program. The Midwest Region's role has been to assist with funding as it operates through parks within that region.

A total of 17 NPS units were originally included in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. New Orleans Jazz National Park (JAZZ) was established with the same legislation as the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative and the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area (CARI) legislation was passed just a few days after P.L. 103-433, so both were included in the original count (Blythe, 2012). As can be seen in Table 4, Central High School National Historic Site (CHSC) and President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home (WICL) had yet to be established. Since Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield (BRCR) and Tupelo National Battlefield (TUPE) are both managed by Natchez Trace Parkway, both are considered a part of the LMDR but neither have voting privileges within the LMDI. Natchez Trace Parkway speaks for all units within the parkway. Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO), Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (ULSG), and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JEFF) were originally outside the bounds of the LMDI but included after a Board decision to include the units of a state if part of the state was included within the LMDR boundary (R. Lasell, personal communication, February 23, 2021).

The decision to include park units that lie outside the legislatively defined Lower Mississippi Delta Region is not a deeply documented decision based on scrutiny of the administrative record. However, from the distance of time this decision aligns with reliance on park superintendents and staff as ambassadors for the program and the national park mission. One of LMDI's notable strengths is the program's ability to develop connections between National Park Service units and diverse communities throughout the LMDI region. These relationships enable communities which have had no prior interaction with the National Park Service to become partners with the agency, a success that fosters greater awareness of the agency in areas where the National Park Service has no presence. Inclusion of numerous National Park Service units that are located outside the LMDI region, such as Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial), Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, Fort Donelson National Battlefield (FODO), and Lincoln Home National Historic Site reinforces the importance of agency outreach and has resulted in numerous successful LMDI projects within the program's boundary. This inclusiveness best demonstrates that the National Park Service serves not only communities in which its units exist, but the nation as a whole.



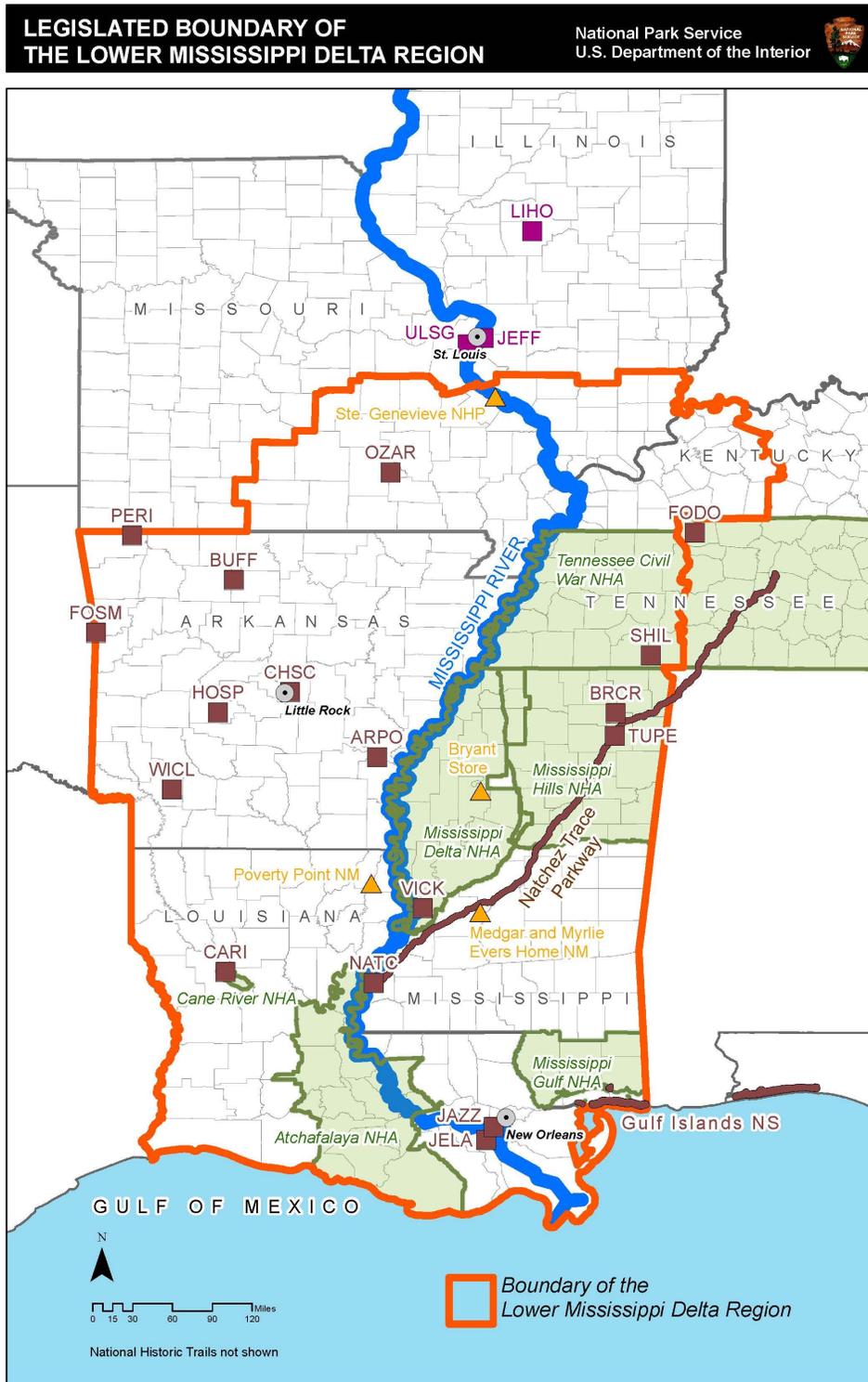
Table 4: LMDI NPS Units and Year Established

NPS Unit	Year Established
Arkansas Post National Memorial (ARPO)	1960
Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site (BRCR)	1929
Buffalo National River (BUFF)	1972
Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area (CARI)	1994
Central High School National Historic Site (CHSC)	1998
Fort Donelson National Battlefield (FODO)	1933
Fort Smith National Memorial (FOSM)	1961
Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial) (JEFF)	1935
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)	1971
Hot Springs National Park (HOSP)	1921
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (formerly Chalmette National Historical Park) (JELA)	1933/1978
Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO)	1971
Natchez National Historical Park (NATC)	1988
Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR)	1934
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park (JAZZ)	1994
Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OZAR)	1964
Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI)	1956
President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site (WICL)	2010
Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park (STGE)	2020
Tupelo National Battlefield (TUPE)	1933
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (ULSG)	1989
Shiloh National Military Park (SHIL)	1894
Vicksburg National Military Park (VICK)	1899

The 2015 project charter named 19 NPS units within the jurisdiction of the LMDI (LMDI, 2015a). This included Central High School National Historic Site and President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home. In 2018 Lincoln Home National Historic Site was included in the LMDI charter as was Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park. Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park was officially established on Oct. 30, 2020 and became a member of the LMDI Board. The current total of LMDI units is 21 with voting authority and 23 units total as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: LMDI Current Boundary and NPS Units



The counties within the LMDR boundary according to the California Desert Land Protection Act (1994)² include:

Arkansas Counties:

Arkansas
Ashley
Baxter
Benton
Boone
Bradley
Calhoun
Carroll
Chicot
Clark
Clay
Cleburne
Cleveland
Columbia
Conway
Craighead
Crawford
Crittenden
Cross
Dallas
Desha
Drew
Faulkner
Franklin
Fulton
Garland
Grant
Greene
Hempstead
Hot Spring
Howard
Independence
Izard
Jackson
Jefferson
Johnson
Lafayette

Lawrence
Lee
Lincoln
Little River
Logan
Lonoke
Madison
Marion
Miller
Mississippi
Monroe
Montgomery
Nevada
Newton
Ouachita
Perry
Phillips
Pike
Poinsett
Polk
Pope
Prairie
Pulaski
Randolph
St. Francis
Saline
Scott
Searcy
Sebastian
Sevier
Sharp
Stone
Union
Van Buren
Washington
White
Woodruff
Yell

Illinois Counties:

Alexander
Franklin
Gallatin
Hamilton
Hardin
Jackson
Johnson
Massac
Perry
Pope
Pulaski
Randolph
Saline
Union
White
Williamson

Kentucky Counties:

Ballard
Caldwell
Calloway
Carlisle
Christian
Crittenden
Fulton
Graves
Henderson
Hickman
Hopkins
Livingston
Lyon
Marshall
McCracken
McLean
Muhlenberg
Todd

² "Delta Region" means the Lower Mississippi Delta Region including the 219 counties and parishes within the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, as defined in the Delta Initiatives Report, except that, for any State for which the Delta Region as defined in such report comprises more than half of the geographic area of such State, the entire State shall be considered part of the Delta Region for purposes of this title



Trigg
Union
Webster

Louisiana Parishes:

Acadia
Allen
Ascension
Assumption
Avoyelles
Beauregard
Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Calcasieu
Caldwell
Cameron
Catahoula
Claiborne
Concordia
De Soto
East Baton Rouge
East Carroll
East Feliciana
Evangeline
Franklin
Grant
Iberia
Iberville
Jackson
Jefferson
Jefferson Davis
La Salle
Lafayette
Lafourche
Lincoln
Livingston
Madison
Morehouse
Natchitoches
Orleans
Ouachita
Plaquemines
Pointe Coupee
Rapides
Red River

Richland
Sabine
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. Helena
St. James
St. John The Baptist
St. Landry
St. Martin
St. Mary
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Tensas
Terrebonne
Union
Vermilion
Vernon
Washington
Webster
West Baton Rouge
West Carroll
West Feliciana
Winn

Mississippi Counties:

Adams
Alcorn
Amite
Attala
Benton
Bolivar
Calhoun
Carroll
Chickasaw
Choctaw
Claiborne
Clarke
Clay
Coahoma
Copiah
Covington
De Soto
Forrest
Franklin
George
Greene

Grenada
Hancock
Harrison
Hinds
Holmes
Humphreys
Issaquena
Itawamba
Jackson
Jasper
Jefferson
Jefferson Davis
Jones
Kemper
Lafayette
Lamar
Lauderdale
Lawrence
Leake
Lee
Leflore
Lincoln
Lowndes
Madison
Marion
Marshall
Monroe
Montgomery
Neshoba
Newton
Noxubee
Oktibbeha
Panola
Pearl River
Perry
Pike
Pontotoc
Prentiss
Quitman
Rankin
Scott
Sharkey
Simpson
Smith
Stone
Sunflower



Tallahatchie
Tate
Tippah
Tishomingo
Tunica
Union
Walthall
Warren
Washington
Wayne
Webster
Wilkinson
Winston
Yalobusha
Yazoo

Missouri Counties:

Bollinger
Butler
Cape Girardeau
Carter
Crawford
Dent

Douglas
Dunklin
Howell
Iron
Madison
Mississippi
New Madrid
Oregon
Ozark
Pemiscot
Perry
Phelps
Reynolds
Ripley
Scott
Shannon
Ste. Genevieve
St. Francois
Stoddard
Texas
Washington
Wayne
Wright

Tennessee Counties:

Benton
Carroll
Chester
Crockett
Decatur
Dyer
Fayette
Gibson
Hardeman
Hardin
Haywood
Henderson
Henry
Lake
Lauderdale
Madison
McNairy
Obion
Shelby
Tipton
Weakley

Program Structure

The LMDI is governed by the official LMDI charter and bylaws and standard operating procedures (SOPs) (Appendix C). According to the LMDI charter, the involved superintendents and NPS personnel were designated the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative Board of Directors and are responsible for carrying out the charter, bylaws, and SOPs (LMDI, 2015a). These guiding documents outline the LMDI program parameters and policies and require a majority of the Board to amend the charter or to amend, pass, or reject a bylaw (LMDI, 2015a). The policies define Board membership, the purpose of the LMDI Board, Board officers, Board meetings, Board committees and appointments, Board elections, position tenure and vacancies, LMDI administration, LMDI funding, and bylaw amendments (LMDI, 2015a; 2015b).

The representatives to the Board of Directors are from NPS units that come from within the geographic area designated the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, with some parks adjacent to the legislatively defined boundary also participating. In the charter this included 19 different units, but has since expanded to 21. The Board members can be either superintendents of those units or another staff member chosen by the superintendent and communicated to the Board (LMDI, 2015a). All 21 units have one vote on the Board (LMDI, 2015a). Those units that manage multiple units, such as Natchez Trace Parkway, still receive only one vote (LMDI, 2015a).



The Board elects a chair and vice-chair through nominations and a secret ballot every two years at the annual Board meeting (LMDI, 2015a). When the two-year term expires, the vice-chair automatically becomes the new chair and a new vice-chair is elected (LMDI, 2015b). If a position becomes vacant during a tenure, the Board can appoint a new person until someone can be elected at the next Board meeting (LMDI, 2015b). The Board reports to the Interior Region 2 (IR2) (formerly Southeast Region) chief of cultural resources who was chosen as the primary contact by the IR2 director, but who also has the authority to designate this role to another if needed (LMDI, 2015a). This is currently the case with the LMDI staff liaison leading the LMDI from the region. Committees and other Board positions can be developed as approved by the Board for administration of the LMDI (LMDI, 2015b). All Board members are eligible to serve on a committee or in a specially designated Board position (LMDI, 2015b).

The chair and vice-chair are responsible for carrying out the business of the Board (LMDI, 2015a). The chair specifically presides over meetings and handles Board administration while the vice-chair documents meetings and transactions alongside the LMDI staff liaison (LMDI, 2015b). The LMDI staff liaison is responsible for handling all Board communications and maintaining a long-term record of Board meetings and transactions (LMDI, 2015b). In addition, the LMDI staff liaison manages the list of eligible projects for funding and those that are chosen to be funded (LMDI, 2015b). The LMDI staff liaison has the ability to retain up to 5% of the LMDI annual appropriation for administration of the program (LMDI, 2015b). Eligible program administration costs include budget assessments as well as LMDI travel (LMDI, 2015b).

The aim of the Board of Directors is to advise the IR2 director on the implementation of the legislation, particularly the prioritization of funding requests (LMDI, 2015a). To do this, the Board is required to have at least one meeting per fiscal year prior to September 30, known as the annual meeting of the Board (LMDI, 2015a). The purpose of the annual meeting of the Board is to discuss relevant LMDI issues and topics as well as vote on and prioritize funding requests for approval by the IR2 director or LMDI staff liaison (LMDI, 2015a; 2015b). The IR2 LMDI staff liaison and other IR2 representatives are able to attend and contribute to Board meetings but must maintain a non-voting status (LMDI, 2015a). Regional programs, archeological centers, and others chosen by the Board are also able to participate in Board business, but do not have a vote (LMDI, 2015a; 2015b).

The funding requests submitted to the program are intended to meet the LMDI legislation (California Desert Land Protection Act, 1994). All funding requests through the program need to be sponsored by either an LMDI NPS unit or Interior Regions 2, 3, or 4 (LMDI, 2015b). Funding can also be requested by NPS regional programs and archeological centers (LMDI, 2015a). The funding must support partnerships with state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, non-profit corporations, preservation organizations, or grassroots community groups (LMDI, 2019). The focus of projects must also be a priority identified in the LMDI legislation such as the preservation of cultural resources, natural resources, or cultural heritage, or the development of heritage tourism and clearly specify the section of the law that will be addressed (LMDI,



2019; Southeast Regional Office, 2015). Those projects with a 50% or higher partner match are more likely to be successful in competing for funding (LMDI, 2015c; LMDI, 2019).

The potential funding requests are entered into the NPS project management information system (PMIS) by the sponsoring unit or office by July 31 (LMDI, 2015b). It is suggested that NPS units or offices submit no more than three projects for any one fiscal year to allow for distribution of funds to multiple units and areas (Southeast Regional Office, 2015). If a park or office does submit more than one project, the projects need to be prioritized by the park representative and submitted to the chair of the Board (Southeast Regional Office, 2015). All project requests generally conform to no more than \$25,000 a year for a maximum of two years with the same partner or \$35,000 for a project implemented in two phases (Southeast Regional Office, 2015; 2018). After projects have been submitted to PMIS, they are compiled by the LMDI staff liaison for voting at the annual meeting (Southeast Regional Office, 2015). At each annual meeting five voting members or 50% of the Board need to be present to allow for voting on those projects most eligible to receive the congressionally appropriated funds for enacting the program (LMDI, 2015b; Southeast Regional Office, 2015). When voting, the Board adheres to the following guidelines for acceptable projects that meet the legislation:

1. A project that results directly in increased heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region;
2. A product that enhances a visitor's understanding of the LMDR nationally significant stories;
3. A project that preserves a natural, cultural, or recreational resource; e.g. preservation of a structure or an object that has public visitation; and
4. A project that adds to the knowledge base concerning a cultural, natural, or recreational resource or provides useful contextual information for a resource. Information needs to be readily available and/or provided to the public (LMDI, 2019, p.2).

It is the responsibility of LMDI NPS units or offices to submit project updates or completion reports in PMIS prior to the next annual meeting (Southeast Regional Office, 2015). It is the LMDI staff liaison's responsibility to manage these project records and develop reports pertaining to projects and funding (LMDI, 2015b). This includes notifying units and offices who have received funding, and sharing the funded project list with the Administrative Service Unit (West) Major Acquisition Buying Office (Southeast Regional Office, 2015). Superintendents or leadership within other NPS entities who have secured funding are responsible for conforming to all federal grant-in-aid requirements for funding going to another organization (Southeast Regional Office, 2015).



Study Purpose

After operating for more than 25 years, the National Park Service concluded that a review of the initiative's operations was needed to ensure efficiency and align with best practices for program management, and that an administrative history would provide valuable documentation of past operations as a basis for discussion of change. This effort was particularly timely, given changes in the agency's financial assistance program that led to a pause in LMDI program activity in 2019. To meet the need for programmatic background and knowledge the Park Planning and Stewardship branch of the IR2 Cultural Resources Division partnered with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands (Eppley Institute) at Indiana University to catalog the history of the program, to interview stakeholders concerning program operations, and to develop an administrative history of the initiative's first 25 years.

The purpose of the current study is to document the history of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative and current operation of the program to be able to better plan for the future. To achieve this the project the deliverables included:

- (1) an administrative history of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative,
- (2) stakeholder interviews, and
- (3) facilitation and observation of an annual meeting.

Report Structure

This document provides an administrative history of each year of the program. For each year program management updates are described, program activities (i.e., formal and informal projects and funding) and deliverables (i.e., reports and marketing) are shared, and the annual meeting discussions are depicted. The Eppley Institute team used all available documentation in addition to internet research to identify program management, activities, and deliverables and annual meeting information. Since there was strong documentation of the first three years of the program, program activities are more comprehensively described for these years. The research team also used the Project Management Information System (PMIS) to confirm the project record, thus the project data matches that system. Despite efforts to identify information for the study, some material was unable to be found. The table in Appendix E describes the information that could not be found by year.

In addition, this document reports the design, implementation, and findings from the stakeholder interviews. Together the findings from the administrative history and the interviews guide the development of recommendations for the future of the program.

Note: Where practical, this Administrative History provides the calendar date of events. The federal fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30. For purposes of summarizing program and funding activity, reference is often made to the fiscal year (i.e., FY1996). Readers are reminded that portions of two fiscal years occur in each calendar year.



YEAR 1: 1995

Program Management

The first year of the LMDI was characterized by defining the program and developing infrastructure to be able to operate. By October 1995 the program had developed an organizational structure and identified a temporary location for program operations. The superintendent for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Robert Belous, was chosen to serve as the lead for the LMDI, while the interim desk officer for the Gulf Coast Cluster, Paul Hartwig, served as the lead from the Southeast Region (Hartwig, 1995). In addition, superintendents and NPS personnel were chosen to fill roles as state representatives to be responsible for project communications within their state and to lead work on themes to address specific aspects of the legislation (NPS, 1995a; NPS, 1995b). The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative team as of 1995 can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5: 1995 Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Implementation Team

LMDI Role	Name	Position Title	NPS Unit
Initiative Lead	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	GCSO
Legislative Lead	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Denver Service Center Team Leader	Michael Spratt	Project Manager	DSC
AR State Representative	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO
KY State Representative	Ron Switzer	Superintendent	MACA
IL/MO State Representative	Gary Easton	Superintendent	JEFF
LA State Representative	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
MS State Representative	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC
TN State Representative	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL
Archeology Theme Lead	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	GCSO
Civil War Theme Lead	Bill Nichols	Superintendent	VICK
Communication/Marketing Theme Lead	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Education/History Theme Lead	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL
Folkways Theme Lead	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO
Natural Resources Theme Lead	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Tourism Theme Lead	Dan Brown	Superintendent	NATR
Transportation Theme Lead	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC

Program Activities

At the close of 1994 a three year plan was developed and shared in a briefing report (NPS, 1994) with Senator Johnston. The plan outlined the following action items for 1995:

1. Identify a physical space and staff for an office in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region for program operations;
2. Conduct meetings with important partners in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region;
3. Plan and host a forum to encourage the development of partnerships;
4. Develop a plan for the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (LMDRHS) that addresses Section 1103 in the legislation;
5. Plan a conference for 1996 to discuss the development of an African American Heritage Corridor; and
6. Initiate a prehistoric mounds study in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region.



In December 1994 NPS staff from JELA and DSC met with Senator Johnston to discuss the legislation and agree on the proposed action items for 1995 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996; 1997).

During 1995, progress was made on all of the planned activities from 1994. The temporary office space had been set up at JELA and partnership meetings had begun. Headway was made on items four through six which addressed Sections 1103, 1104, and 1107 of the legislation. The following sections describe the progress made.

Partnership Development

A very important aspect of the LMDI in the early years was establishing partnerships. Several partnerships and meetings to establish connections were known to have occurred in 1995. Robert Belous, as the primary contact for the natural resources legislative theme was engaged in the Lower Mississippi Valley Natural Resources Partnership. A Lower Mississippi River Valley Natural Resources Partnership Conference was set for August 13th-16th, 1996 in Memphis, TN. As a participant in the partnership, Robert was solicited, alongside another NPS representative from the LMDR, Steve Hickman, in November 1995 for assistance in promoting the conference and in registering to attend (Southern Science Center, 1995).

In May 1995 a meeting occurred in Jackson, MS to allow for communication about the LMDI among cultural preservation and tourism specialists and government officials (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In the same month another meeting occurred in Natchez, MS with the National Park Foundation (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). This meeting mainly discussed archeological mounds and participants visited mounds sites (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). These meetings were opportunities to connect individuals and addressed the second and third goals from the 1994 briefing report.

Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)

From September 25th-28th, 1995 Robert Vernon from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), Robert Dodson from Natchez National Historical Park, the Denver Service Center, and staff from Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve met in Denver, CO to outline a comprehensive strategy to address the legislation (Hartwig, 1995; NPS, 1995b). During the meeting, attendees decided to frame the approach by themes and to implement the legislation in two phases. Phase 1 was intended to be the planning phase in which partnerships and formal agreements would be established with the states and other stakeholders and data across the region would be gathered and analyzed to develop implementation recommendations (Hartwig, 1995). Phase 2 would encompass a plan to implement the recommendations developed in phase 1 (Hartwig, 1995). While the focus of the heritage study was meeting Section 1103 of the legislation it was intended to inform the implementation of Sections 1104 through 1107 as well (NPS, 1995b). Michael Spratt from the Denver Service Center was designated with the lead of implementing the phased approach (Hartwig, 1995). By October 1995 the Denver Service Center and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve staff were actively connecting with



government partners at all levels and reaching out to community groups as well (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Another meeting was held on November 28th, 1995 in St. Louis, MO between park superintendents, the Denver Service Center, the Southeast Region, and RTCA to identify and assign work pertaining to the heritage study (NPS, 1995b). Since the study was set to be complete by October 1997, the following schedule was developed to keep the project team on task (NPS, 1994).

Table 6: Timeline for Heritage Study Tasks

Task	Date of Completion
Step 1 - Stories/Thematic Framework	
Begin Special Resource Study	November 1995
Make Contacts, Gather Information, Field Visits	February 1996
Conduct Expert Stories/Themes Workshop	April/May 1996
Newsletter to Partners/Public	June 1996
Public Meetings	June/July 1996
Step 2 - Data Collection and Analysis	
Identify Needs	December 1995
Begin Data Collection	April/May 1996
Complete Data Analysis	February 1997
Step 3 - Recommendations and Findings	
Begin Draft Study	March 1997
Review Draft Study	July 1997
Review Final Study	August 1997
Print and Distribute Final Study	October 31, 1997

In addition, the study specific to determining whether the segment from Alexandria, LA to Monroe, LA of Highway 165 could be a National Scenic Byway or a component of the National Trails System was initiated. The study researched the communities between Alexandria and Monroe to describe Louisiana's timber industry including the lumber companies, the timber workers, the sawmills built, and the historic towns (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Based upon the findings, the U.S. Highway 165 corridor met the requirements for secretarial designation commemorating the Delta timber industry and its related historic byways (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

African American Heritage Corridor and Cultural Center (Section 1104)

As planned in 1994, a conference was held to discuss the development of an African American Heritage Corridor from August 14th-16th, 1995 in Baton Rouge, LA (Hartwig, 1995; NPS 1995b; Spratt, 1995). The conference gathered more than 100 attendees to discuss three questions:

1. What is it about African Americans in the LMDR that every American should understand,
2. Who do you believe we need to reach with this information, and



3. What are the important people, places, and events that illustrate the concept developed in response to question 1 for each audience identified in question 2 (Spratt, 1995)?

These questions were reviewed in small groups in the context of eight topics (i.e., historical periods; education; literature; science, inventions and discoveries; folklore and cultural traditions; music of the delta; politics and civil rights; and performing and visual arts) (Spratt, 1995). The attendees decided to complete a study for the development of an African American Heritage Corridor in fiscal year 1996 using the findings from the conference as a guide (Hartwig, 1995). The conference was supported by the Department of Transportation in the amount of \$40,000 to help with project enhancement (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Delta Antiquities Survey (Section 1106)

The prehistoric mounds study action area was initially led by the Chief of the NPS's Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), John Ehrenhard. To meet the goal of initiating a prehistoric mound study, some efforts were in progress by 1995. The study of earthworks in the Ouachita Valley led by Dr. Jon Gibson at the University of Louisiana Lafayette was in development with a final report planned for delivery in November 1995. The intent of this study was to identify and evaluate earthwork sites and the villages associated with them in the Ouachita River Basin in Louisiana (Hartwig, 1995).

Historic and Archeological Resources Program (Section 1107)

The program for research, interpretation and preservation of key historic and archeological resources in the delta made progress early in the program.

Historic Resources

Kirk Cordell began developing a strategy to preserve the Civil War Vicksburg campaign resources that were not yet protected (Hartwig, 1995). The Mississippi Delta Outreach Education and Preservation Initiative worked with others in early 1995 to develop a brochure which reviewed the campaign and siege at Vicksburg (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Archeological Resources

John Jameson, a senior archeologist with the Interagency Archeological Services Division and the Southeast Archeological Center began work with the LMDI to develop strategies to provide long-term protection for Watson Brake, Raffman, Pritchards Landing, and Mott in Louisiana alongside the Archeological Conservancy (Hartwig, 1995; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). John Jameson spent time reaching out to archeologists in Louisiana to discuss the possibility of designating a Louisiana Mounds National Historical Park. His findings uncovered both state and local landowner suspicion and mistrust of the NPS at Poverty Point, Watson Brake, and throughout the state (Jameson, 1995). Despite this, archeologists were generally of the opinion that an NPS unit protecting the mounds in Louisiana would be positive if the Louisiana Office of State Parks were involved as a contributing partner (Jameson, 1995). The proposed national park would include Poverty Point, the Motley, Watson Brake, Pritchard Landing,



Raffman, and Mott (Jameson, 1995). Given the local and state concerns and feelings, Mott would stay under landholder ownership and Poverty Point would be managed by the Louisiana Office of State Parks (Jameson, 1995). To initiate this plan, a memo written by John Jameson to Paul Hartwig suggested setting a meeting with Louisiana Office of State Parks, the NPS, and the state archeologist to develop a plan for creating Louisiana Mounds National Historical Park (Jameson, 1995). Once the meeting was completed an NPS and state parks agreement would be developed followed by a draft of legislation for the park (Jameson, 1995).

In addition, the Southeast Archeological Center planned a symposium to present at the Southeast Archeological Conference titled "Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta: A Study of Earthworks" which included two presentations on the Delta Initiative, the design of an earthwork study, a study of earthworks in the Ouachita Valley, and an overview of the Mississippi Arch initiative and database (Hartwig, 1995). Dr. Guy Prentice with the Southeast Archeological Center was also attending the Lower Mississippi Valley Geographic Information System (GIS) steering committee meeting run through the Environmental Protection Agency in December 1995 to look for areas to combine resources and avoid redundant efforts (Hartwig, 1995). Around the same time, SEAC was developing webpages pertaining to archeology in the Southeast (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The webpages highlighted national park units with archeological sites and shared marketing efforts completed by the Lower Mississippi Delta Outreach Education and Preservation Initiative (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Finally, a comprehensive earthworks study to meet Section 1107 of the legislation, led by Dr. Guy Prentice, was in the design phase and set to start in 1996 (Prentice, 2000).

Funding

In 1995 the program was busy determining funding needs. In the briefing report provided to Senator Johnston (NPS, 1994), the following funding needs were identified for 1995 (see Table 7). Despite the request, the challenge that fiscal year 1995 appropriations were already approved remained, and money had to be moved within NPS entities. Ultimately, \$125,000 was taken from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training for the Delta prehistoric mounds thematic study and African American Heritage Corridor conference and \$16,000 was taken from the Southeast Regional Office for the Highway 165 study (see Table 7) (NPS, 1995b). Since funding was not set aside for the development of an office, \$250,000 was requested alongside two full-time equivalent employees for fiscal year 1996 and \$166,400 from Operations of National Park Service (ONPS) funds was also requested for this purpose (Hartwig, 1995).



Table 7: Funding Request and Funding Received for FY1995

Funding Need	Minimum Amount Requested	Preferred Amount Requested	Amount Funded
Denver Service Center	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Newsletter	\$10,000	\$10,000	
National Initiative Program Kit	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Regional Office Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses	\$16,000	\$30,000	
Partnership Forum	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Delta Prehistoric Mounds Thematic Study	\$0	\$90,000	\$85,000
Highway 165 Study	-	-	\$16,000
African American Heritage Corridor Conference	-	-	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$59,000	\$163,000	\$141,000

Program Deliverables

Reports

Since the program had only been running for one year, there were no reports completed in 1995.

Marketing

In April 1995 the LMDI program released a four-page brochure to provide information about the program. The brochure included a brief overview of the region, discussed the difference between the LMDI and another similar study underway on a National Heritage Corridor in the region, and defined the geographic scope of the program. In addition, the brochure highlighted the key pieces of the legislation and their meaning as well as the National Park Service’s approach to the project which noted the development of a 5-year plan in collaboration with states and welcomed feedback from brochure readers.

The Mississippi Delta Outreach Education and Preservation Initiative also developed a brochure in 1995 which shared the campaign and siege at Vicksburg and nearby attractions for tourists (Southeast Field Director’s Office, 1996).

Annual Meeting

The first meeting resembling the current annual meeting took place from July 19th-21st, 1995 in Oxford, MS (Hartwig, 1995; NPS, 1995b). Robert Baker organized superintendents from the NPS units within the LMDR, representatives from the Center for Southern Culture, and the NPS director to attend and discuss strategies for meeting the legislation (Hartwig, 1995). The outcomes from the meeting included an understanding of the director’s expectations, a vision statement, identification of challenges, and action items including the person responsible for their completion (Hartwig, 1995).

The vision developed for the program emphasized improving the quality of life through:



1. Strengthening and building institutions that preserve, research, teach, and present the culture of the Delta;
2. Enriching the lives of those in the Delta culturally, economically, and educationally;
3. Building a web among cultural and ethnic groups of the Delta;
4. Building and sustaining partnerships; and
5. Establishing the people's connections to place, time, other people and their heritage (NPS, 1995b, p.1).

The challenges that the LMDI team observed or anticipated included the following:

1. Lack of expertise,
2. Too much to do,
3. Lack of resources,
4. Organizational mindset,
5. Lack of relevancy,
6. Complexity,
7. Poverty of region,
8. Anti-government sentiment,
9. Hostility toward NPS,
10. Disenfranchisement,
11. Local politics,
12. Lack of diversity,
13. Geographical size and diversity,
14. Weak history of community partnerships, and
15. History of exploitation of resources (NPS, 1995a).

The top five were the meeting attendees' greatest concerns (NPS, 1995a).

The action items identified at the meeting included the legislative themes and associated tasks. Table 8 highlights the decisions made at this first meeting.

Table 8: Legislative Themes, Associated Tasks, and Responsible Representatives

Legislative Theme	Tasks	LMDI Lead	Position Title	NPS Unit	Legislative Section
Archeology	Mound study; preservation of the Louisiana mounds	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	GCSO	Sections 1106/1107
Civil War	Vicksburg campaign; Corinth; Brices Cross Roads	Bill Nichols	Superintendent	VICK	Sections 1103/1107
Communication/ Marketing	Development of contacts, duties, and marketing; a cooperative agreement with Center for the Study of Southern Culture; Mississippi Corridor	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA	Section 1106



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	Heritage study; organization of the LMDI and an implementation plan				
Education/History	Historic black colleges and universities archeological study; education programs	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL	Section 1105
Folkways	A southern culture conference; an African American heritage tourism conference; Nesbitt/Riley family reunion; American Indian culture; a music program	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO	Section 1104
Natural Resources	Not defined	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA	Section 1103
Tourism	Heritage tourism; tourism connections	Dan Brown	Superintendent	NATR	Section 1103
Transportation	Highway 84 and Camino Real study; integration of recreation trails and biking	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC	Section 1103



YEAR 2: 1996

Program Management

In January of 1996 the LMDI leadership remained the same as 1995. Paul Hartwig served as the initiative lead from the Southeast Regional Office and Robert Belous served as the legislative lead from Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (LMDI, 1996). In addition, a new lead, responsible for developing support for the NPS mission was named, to be filled by the chief of the Field Office (LMDI, 1996). On June 8, 1996, Robert Belous retired and Geraldine Smith took his place as superintendent of JELA (Blythe, 2012).

The individuals in Table 9 comprised the LMDI implementation team in January of 1996 (LMDI, 1996). While the System Support Office had already been named as a partner in implementation of the LMDI, the 1996 briefing report to Director Kennedy was the first time that Stuart Johnson was named as the primary contact (LMDI, 1996).

Table 9: 1996 Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Implementation Team

LMDI Role	Name	Position Title	NPS Unit
Initiative Lead	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	GCSO
Legislative Lead	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Denver Service Center Team Leader	Michael Spratt	Project Manager	DSC
Gulf Coast Cluster System Support Office Point of Contact	Stuart Johnson	Unknown	Unknown
AR State Representative	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO
KY State Representative	Ron Switzer	Superintendent	MACA
IL/MO State Representative	Gary Easton	Superintendent	JEFF
LA State Representative	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
MS State Representative	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC
TN State Representative	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL
Archeology Theme Lead	Paul Hartwig	Superintendent	GCSO
Civil War Theme Lead	Bill Nichols	Superintendent	VICK
Education/History Theme Lead	Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL
Folkways Theme Lead	Laura Soulliere	Superintendent	ARPO
Natural Resources Theme Lead	Robert Belous	Superintendent	JELA
Tourism Theme Lead	Dan Brown	Superintendent	NATR
Transportation Theme Lead	Robert Dodson	Superintendent	NATC

Program Activities

The aim of the second year was to build upon the developments achieved in the first year. The NPS (1994) briefing report outlined the following initiatives for fiscal year 1996:

1. Move operation of the program to the Lower Mississippi Delta Region office;



2. Launch the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study to address Section 1103 in the legislation; and
3. Use the Historic Preservation Fund and Endowment for the Arts to begin funding programs for the legislation, specifically the items shown below
 - a. Small minority and rural museum grants (Section 1104e)
 - b. Historically Black College and Universities historic and prehistoric structures survey (Section 1105)
 - c. Preservation and technical assistance for historic and archeological sites (Section 1107)
 - d. Demonstration project on documentation of archeological records and collections (Section 1107d).

Paul Hartwig's (1995) status report a year later, added the following plan to the list for 1996:

1. Launch the African American Heritage Corridor study (Section 1104).

The briefing report of January 1996 highlighted an emphasis on developing partnerships, marketing, and preservation of archeological sites through the following goals (LMDI, 1996):

1. Establish steering teams/task forces or identify and develop partnership with established organizations for each theme area;
2. Undertake public forums to call attention to importance of the Delta resources and to bring potential partners together;
3. Gather and maintain resource and educational information on the Delta and share it widely;
4. Develop strategy for using emerging/interactive technologies to market Delta's heritage and inform public of Delta and NPS Delta units' values and undertake demonstration project (Section 1107d);
5. Protect the nationally significant archeological mound sites in northeast Louisiana (Section 1107); and
6. Assist Arkansas state archeologist and Air Force in establishing a cultural center on the base and in preserving the base's archeological mounds (Section 1107) (LMDI, 1996).

It appears by the second year of the program there was an understanding of the need for help to meet the needs of the legislation and a focus on identifying and coordinating with existing and evolving projects aligning with aspects of the legislation, to move forward.

By 1996 the program was operating out of JELA. There was an intent to use funds appropriated for fiscal year 1996 to set up an office with a staff member to lead LMDI partnership development but this did not materialize (Interview participant, personal communication, October 9, 2019; LMDI, 1996). Nevertheless, program activities



continued. Public forums were being hosted throughout 1996 and education efforts through brochures, maps, tours, and websites were in development. The first phase of the heritage study had been initiated and while it was intended to build a foundation for other sections of the legislation, the primary goal of the study was to meet the needs of Section 1103. Work toward the study of an African American Heritage Corridor had begun, but there was no comprehensive effort to complete this piece of the legislation. In addition, small minority and rural museum grants had not started but workshops to train rural museum staff in preservation of resources had begun. Headway had not been made on the survey of archeological sites at Historically Black Colleges and Universities; however, there were many projects in process to preserve historic and archeological sites including Eaker Air Force base in Louisiana. Progress had also not yet been made on the documentation of archeological records demonstration project.

A total of seven legislative themes had been agreed to by 1996 including archeology, the civil war, folkways, education/history, natural resources, tourism, and transportation (LMDI, 1996). The communication/marketing theme seems to have been dropped between 1995 and 1996 and was likely covered by Robert Belous within his legislative lead duties and taken up by state representatives to complete for their own states. Work on developing the theme areas and their tasks was beginning at this point. In the 1996 briefing report, the work related to legislative themes included defining the themes, developing a list of partners for each theme, developing a plan to identify and recruit partners to aid with the completion of tasks for each theme, and brainstorming and implementing a strategy to gain funding through sponsors for activities and programs within each theme (LMDI, 1996). The development of task forces or existing organizations willing to take on responsibility for the completion of work under legislative themes was also sought (LMDI, 2016). Robert Dodson, at Natchez National Historical Park was made responsible for this work.

The following sections describe the progress made toward addressing the legislation during this time.

Partnership Development

The public forums to draw attention to the Delta's assets and to allow for networking and the growth of partnerships continued in 1996 (LMDI, 1996). In 1995 this included a meeting in Jackson, MS with preservation, tourism, and government stakeholders and Natchez, MS with the National Park Foundation (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In 1996 these included networking sessions to discuss the legislative themes and colloquiums pertaining to southern culture, archeology, and heritage tourism (LMDI, 1996). The networking sessions were intended to be one-day opportunities to share information about each theme area and to gain information from interested parties (LMDI, 1996). Robert Dodson was made responsible for this initiative. An Arkansas networking session took place in September 1996 with professionals in cultural preservation, tourism, and the government to discuss the current work of the LMDI (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Similarly, a Louisiana networking session occurred in November 1996 also with relevant stakeholders to discuss the LMDI (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).



Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)

In May 1996 the project agreement for phase 1 of the heritage study with the Denver Service Center was signed. The intent of the study was to be a first step toward completing Section 1103 of the legislation. It was also expected to lay the foundations for completing Sections 1104 through 1107 (Schneckenburger, 1996). The agreement was clear that given this intent, the recreation, interpretation, and visitor use plans would not be included since the results of this study would provide essential insight into the development of the plans (Schneckenburger, 1996). The goal was to adhere to the timeline outlined in the legislation meaning the study was set to be complete by October 31, 1997 with fieldwork finalized by the end of fiscal year 1996 (Schneckenburger, 1996).

The study was to be implemented in three phases. First the project team sought to identify stories to elucidate the prehistoric, historic, cultural, and natural history themes of the region (Schneckenburger, 1996). Following this, the project team planned to collect data to expand on the stories and identify those of national significance (Schneckenburger, 1996). Finally, the data collection and analysis would result in the development of recommendations for the following potential sites and features in the region: heritage corridors, heritage areas, national park units, historically significant roads, trails, byways, waterways, or other routes, National Historic Landmarks, National Natural Landmarks, and heritage and cultural centers and satellites sites (Schneckenburger, 1996).

A partnership approach was adopted for phase 1 of the heritage study relying on the Denver Service Center to orchestrate and complete the study and the superintendent of JELA to lead it from the NPS side. The LMDI state representatives were expected to provide contacts and assistance for their states, the System Support Office and Field Directorates were also slated to help, and partners from all levels of government, non-government organizations, and residents were intended to be engaged.

To successfully partner with all of these different groups, the Denver Service Center proposed a communications approach including a press release from the LMDR field office to announce the study, letters from NPS state representatives to their state governors requesting support, and letters to federal and local agencies asking for support and participation (Schneckenburger, 1996). The Denver Service Center also proposed a public engagement strategy which included a symposium with experts to identify LMDR stories, a newsletter to share stories with the public and solicit feedback, and a set of meetings across the LMDR to allow for additional participation by active stakeholders (Schneckenburger, 1996). By January 1996, a partnership had successfully been secured with the Lower Mississippi Delta Center and by February with the Center for Study of Southern Culture (Southeast Director's Field Office, 1996).

From June 4th-6th, 1996 Shapins Associates, Inc. and Sylvia Angell Written Communications (1996) coordinated the Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium for the Denver Service Center as part of phase 1 of the heritage study. The symposium



featured a keynote presentation by NPS Director, Roger Kennedy, and included the Director of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, Ray Bryant, in addition to 25 attendees who shared stories from their experiences in the Delta Region (Shapins Associates, Inc. & Sylvia Angell Written Communications, 2006).

In December 1996 after the heritage study was underway, the study team set up the public meetings across the Lower Mississippi Delta Region to solicit input from residents and community representatives and organization members. The meetings began with a description of the study and stories collected from the region and asked participants to share stories they identified as significant and to note sites they thought were valuable to understanding the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (NPS, 1996). The meeting sites, dates, and locations can be found in Table 10.

Table 10: Public Meeting Sites and Dates

State	City	Date	Meeting Host
AR	Helena	December 14, 1996	Delta Cultural Center
AR	Dumas	December 17, 1996	Dumas Public Library
AR	Little Rock	December 18, 1996	Department of Arkansas Heritage
AR	Jonesboro	December 19, 1996	Arkansas State University
IL	Cairo	December 4, 1996	City of Cairo Community/Economic Development
IL	Chester	December 5, 1996	Reids Harvest House
KY	Mayfield	December 16, 1996	Mayfield Main Street Program
LA	Natchitoches	December 4, 1996	Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission
LA	Franklin	December 5, 1996	Main Street Program
LA	Jennings	December 9, 1996	Department of Economic Development, Film and Tourism
LA	Ferriday	December 10, 1996	Macon Ridge Economic Development Region
LA	Hammond	December 11, 1996	Tangipahoa Parish Tourist Commission
LA	Plaquemine	December 11, 1996	Iberville Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Commission
LA	New Orleans	December 12, 1996	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
MS	Woodville	December 4, 1996	Wilkinson County Museum
MS	Natchez	December 4, 1996	Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus
MS	Vicksburg	December 5, 1996	Southern Cultural Heritage Center
MS	Yazoo City	December 7, 1996	Triangle Cultural Center
MS	Jackson	December 9, 1996	Mississippi Department of History and Archives
MS	Clarksdale	December 13, 1996	Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce
MS	Holly Springs	December 16, 1996	Marshall County Historical Museum
MO	St. Genevieve	December 2, 1996	University Extension Center and Felix Valle State Historic Site
MO	Cape Girardeau	December 3, 1996	Trail of Tears State Park
MO	New Madrid	December 17, 1996	City of New Madrid/Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site
TN	Memphis	December 10, 1996	Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center
TN	Dyersburg	December 11, 1996	Dyersburg State Community College
TN	Martin	December 12, 1996	University of Tennessee Martin



The LMDI also sought to develop resources to aid with the implementation of the legislation. One example of this was a centralized location for GIS data on the resources in the LMDR to develop resource maps (LMDI, 1996). In April 1996 a pilot project was developed between the National Park Service and federal, state, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations to share GIS data specific to Mississippi (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

African American and Native American Heritage Corridor and Cultural Centers (Section 1104)

The Section 1104 work in 1996 aimed to further establish an understanding of the region to be able to designate an African American and Native American Heritage Corridor and Cultural Center. After the completion of the African American heritage tourism conference, a summary report of the meeting findings was developed and distributed to attendees. The summary report highlighted the consensus of discussions on each of the eight topic areas discussed (Spratt, 1996). The findings from the conference were included in the heritage study phase 1 report and all conference attendees were added to a Denver Service Center mailing list for opportunities to share additional insight to aid in the heritage study (Spratt, 1996).

Several other conferences were hosted by the Mississippi Delta Outreach Education and Preservation Initiative in 1996. A conference pertaining to identifying and preserving southern culture was hosted with Natchez Trace Parkway in May 1996 (LMDI, 1996; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). This conference brought together cultural resource, natural resource, historic preservation, heritage tourism, and education professionals, and federal, state and local government officials to discuss the cultural landscape, its preservation, and advocacy (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The conference considered a diversity of human cultures including Native American, pioneer, African-American, Antebellum, reconstruction, New South, and natural ecological processes to better understand the existing cultural landscape (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In April 1996 the first Trail of Tears Symposium was held by the National Trail of Tears Association (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The Trail of Tears is a National Historic Trail that was designated in 1987. The conference allowed for discussion of Native American removal from the land and the impacts of that decision (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The LMDI also intended to host a colloquium pertaining LMDR heritage tourism (LMDI, 1996). The plan was to video tape the colloquium for an accurate record and develop a report to distribute the colloquium findings (LMDI, 1996).

Two research studies were also conducted. An ethnographic study was initiated on the Isle Brevelle Creole, a unique, historically mixed population community located on the Cane River in southern Natchitoches Parish, LA (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The intent of the study was to complete oral history interviews to understand the community's architecture, settlement patterns, cultural landscape, and socioeconomic ecology (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Another ethnographic study began at the Oakland (formerly Bermuda) Plantation along the Cane River in 1996. This study also used oral history interviews with community members or descendants of workers to



depict the history and culture of Cane River plantation life during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). These studies resulted in a report, "We Know Who We Are": An Ethnographic Overview of the Creole Community and Traditions of Isle Brevelle and Cane River, Louisiana, by Gregory and Moran (1996).

One of the smaller aspects of Section 1104 was the effort to aid small, emerging, minority and rural museums. In July 1996 a staff member at Natchez National Historical Park, hosted seven one-day workshops, known as the historic housekeeping workshops, across the seven states in the LMDI (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The intent of the workshops were to provide training in architectural and museum collection preservation to rural areas with reduced access to training resources (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). This effort was the first to meet this piece of the legislation.

In addition, the LMDI planned to reach out to Carol Shull at the Washington D.C. Area Support Office (WASO) to create a map of publicly accessible heritage tourism sites in the region (LMDI, 1996).

Delta Antiquities Survey (Section 1106)

One of the archeological study reports mentioned in 1995 was on the verge of completion in 1996. The ancient earthworks study of the Ouachita Valley in Louisiana led by Dr. Jon Gibson, was printed in June 1996 and shared with interested parties including the public (LMDI, 1996; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Historic and Archeological Resources Program (Section 1107)

Historic Resources

Progress on protection of Civil War resources continued into 1996 with a focus on Mississippi Civil War sites. Work on the protection of all of the Vicksburg campaign resources continued to move forward (LMDI, 1996). In addition, in January 1996 a local organization began efforts to purchase additional land known to be a part of the Battle of Brices Cross Roads in Lee County, MS for protection (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The NPS also funded the Countryside Institute to assist Raymond and Port Gibson to develop a plan for protection of the Civil War resources along the road used by the Union Army in 1863 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In addition, in January 1996 a conference of seven universities was held in Natchez, MS (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Participants shared current research initiatives in the region as well as archival materials (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Archeological Resources

In 1996, John Jameson's efforts to protect archeological mounds in Louisiana were still in process. A meeting was called in February of 1996 between the National Park Service, Louisiana state officials, the state parks director, the state archeologist, and the State Historic Preservation Office to discuss the preservation of the Watson Brake, Raffman, and Pritchard Landing mounds (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). All agreed on the importance of the preservation of the mounds, and the state was willing to accept the properties via donation and manage them (Southeast Field Director's



Office, 1996). There were also plans to work with the Archeological Conservancy and Louisiana State Parks, among others to acquire and manage additional mounds in Louisiana (LMDI, 1996). A concept plan specific to Raffman mounds detailing an idea for public management of the site was developed to pursue this effort (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Once these sites were acquired the plan was to amend the Poverty Point legislation to allow for the addition of the new archeological mounds (LMDI, 1996). In February 1996, legislation was being drafted to add three Louisiana mound sites to the national park system to be managed jointly with partners (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The legislation would also include mound sites in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Similar work was occurring in Mississippi in 1996. The NPS was meeting with the Archeological Conservancy to identify ways to permanently protect mounds in Mississippi and meeting with Mississippi State Parks to explore potential management alternatives (LMDI, 1997).

The Lower Mississippi Delta archeological mounds study examining the condition and importance of approximately 5,200 mounds at 3,130 sites across Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee was in process by June of 1996 and ready to share preliminary findings at the Society for American Archaeology Symposium the same year (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The findings shared at the conference covered resource loss and the need for preservation (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

There were also some education and interpretation efforts underway for archeological resources. As early as 1993 Thomas Green with the Arkansas Archeological Survey was looking to examine the feasibility of using a part of Eaker Air Force Base for a heritage and education center. In 1996 the NPS began to work with the Arkansas state archeologist and the Air Force to create a cultural center at the base and to provide protection for the base's archeological mounds through the surplus property program (LMDI, 1996; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The cultural center was planned to be operational by 1998 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The National Park Service had also created an education folder for the three mounds in the process of being protected in Louisiana. The packet included a market value appraisal for Watson Brake and artwork for the mounds to be used in fundraising efforts (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

In 1996 the LMDI intended to host a colloquium pertaining to Lower Mississippi Delta Region archeology (LMDI, 1996). The plan was to video tape the colloquium for an accurate record and develop a report to distribute the colloquium findings (LMDI, 1996). It is unclear but possible that this event took place in May 1996 in New Orleans and that the NPS Director, Roger Kennedy, was in attendance (LMDI, 1997). Finally, in a related effort, SEAC and the University of Mississippi developed a proposal and were meeting with chambers of commerce and state tourism bureaus to identify funding for an audio-cassette/pamphlet driving tour of prehistoric and historic resources located along National Scenic Highway MS 61 and MS 1 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).



Funding

In 1996 the program was planning to initiate some of the legislative requirements and organizational needs. In the briefing report provided to Senator Johnston (NPS, 1994) and the 1995 status report (Hartwig, 1995) the following funding needs were identified for 1996 (see Table 11). Between 1994 to 1995 the amount requested for the establishment of the Delta office changed from \$480,000 to \$250,000.

Table 11: Funding Requests for FY1996

Funding Need	Amount (1994)	Amount (1995)
Establish Delta Office	\$480,000	\$250,000
Planning		\$300,000
African American Heritage Corridor Conference	\$40,000	
Denver Service Center Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)	\$400,000	
Historically Black College and University Survey (Section 1106)	\$500,000	
Preservation of Historic and Archeological Sites and Technical Assistance (Section 1107)	\$3,000,000	
Demonstration Project on Archeological Record and Collection Documentation (Section 1108d)	\$600,000	
Assistance to Delta Museums (Section 1108a)	\$500,000	
African American Heritage Corridor Study (Section 1104)		\$200,000
TOTAL	\$5,520,000	

Although there is no specific information regarding the receipt of funding in 1996, Spratt (1996) shared in the summary findings from the African American heritage tourism conference that the National Park Service had received funding to work on the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative.

Projects

The following projects were completed in fiscal year 1996. This list was compiled by Paul Hartwig and published on August 30, 1996. The sponsoring unit was not always defined for projects this early, but four were completed by SEAC, two by NATR, and one each by GCSO, NATC, Southeast Field Area (SEFA), and VICK.



Table 12: FY96 Completed Projects

	Date	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description
1	Jan 1996	Unknown	Historic Natchez Conference, Natchez, MS	This conference provided the opportunity for participants to share archival materials and information for research underway in the south.
3	Feb 1996	Unknown	Yazoo Valley Mound Driving Proposal	This cooperative endeavor between SEAC and the University of Mississippi has resulted in a proposal for an audio cassette/pamphlet driving tour of prehistoric and historic resources located along National Scenic Highway MS 61 and MS 1. Potential sources for funding are being contacted.
4	Feb 1996	Unknown	LA Mounds: Education Packet	The NPS has prepared an education packet/folder that explains the significance and preservation values of the mounds. The packet contains NPS-contracted original artwork of the three mound sites. The Archeological Conservancy is in the process of acquiring these sites.
5	Mar 1996	SEAC	Mississippi Delta Mound Poster	This educational poster highlights Ancient Indian Architecture in the Delta. The posters have been sent to the seven SHPO offices of the Mississippi Delta as well as some Native American groups for distribution to the public.
6	Apr 1996	SEFA	Web Site: Mississippi Delta	This web site provides educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. Specific information (themes) derived from the LMDR Heritage Study (DSC) will be presented. The LMDR web site is linked to the NPS web site and parks pages within the Delta Region. Information specific to the "Legislative Initiative" is included also. The NPS' s principal partners in the Delta are identified.
7	May 1996	NATR	Southern Cultural Landscapes: Past, Present, and Future Conference	The conference held May 16 th -18 th in Oxford, MS., brought professionals in the fields of cultural and natural resource, heritage tourism, and education, together with government representatives to address cultural landscape recognition, preservation, and advocacy. It provided a synthesis of the human cultures from Native American, pioneer, African-American, Antebellum, reconstruction, New South and natural ecological processes which have individually and collectively shaped the land and given rise to the cultural landscape apparent today.
8	May 1996	Unknown	Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Symposium on Archeology in the Mississippi Delta	The NPS sponsored and chaired a half-day symposium at the SAA Convention in New Orleans on archeology in the Lower Mississippi River Delta. Many people, including NPS Director Roger Kennedy, attended the symposium.
9	May 1996	Unknown	Louisiana Archeology Week Poster	SEAC prepared the poster for Louisiana Archaeology Week which will occur September 29 th -October 5 th , 1996.
10	Jul 1996	NATC	Mississippi Delta Historic Housekeeping Workshop	The seven one-day workshops conducted in small towns throughout the Delta Region provided information to museum professionals and the general public in the basic principles of architectural and museum collection preservation. All seven LMDR-sponsored "Saving Historic Architecture and Antiques" workshops have been completed, with a total of about two hundred people in attendance.



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11	Jul 96	SEAC/MS SHPO	Mississippi Mound Driving Tour Proposal	SEAC and the MS SHPO developed a driving tour of mound sites predominantly in Mississippi but also including portions of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. A brochure is being prepared for distribution to tourism centers.
12	Jul 1996	Unknown	Preservation of Mississippi Mounds	There are ongoing efforts to protect MS mounds in perpetuity. While the primary sites are being protected by their owners, permanent preservation is needed. The NPS is assisting the Archeological Conservancy in acquiring mound sites. The MS State Parks Department has been consulted on its possible role in the managing of the sites.
13	Aug 1996	Unknown	Raffman Mounds: Preservation for the Public	This concept plan discusses ways the Raffman site could be managed if in public ownership. It will be presented to the owners of Raffman to encourage their donation of the site to a public body. The Raffman Mounds site, located in Madison Parish, Louisiana, is a national treasure with the potential for significantly expanding our knowledge of prehistoric cultures in the Lower Mississippi River Valley.
14	Aug 1996	SEAC	Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley, LA	As an offshoot of the research design developed by SEAC for the Ancient Indian Architecture study, a manuscript entitled "Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita Valley in Louisiana" by Dr. Jon L. Gibson, has been printed and distributed.
15	Sep 1996	JELA	Ethnographic Study - Isle Brevelle Creole	This study will provide ethnographic and ethnohistorical information on the Isle Brevelle Creole community located in southern Natchitoches Parish, on the Cane River. The architecture, settlement patterns, cultural landscape and socio- economic ecology of this unique mixed population of Gens de Coleur, Free People of Color, will also be investigated. Oral history interviews with Creole community members will be conducted.
16	Oct 1996	GCSO	Mississippi Delta Traveling Trunks (continues into FY97)	Traveling trunks is a collection of hands-on educational tools for classroom use on a specific topic. The Lower Mississippi Delta Discovery Trunks will consist of videos, brochures, games, and other three-dimensional objects drawn from National Park Service sites in the Lower Mississippi Delta. They will focus on the Delta experience through the exploration of people, places, and change. The contents of the Delta trunks are being purchased and will be assembled and sent to NPS Delta parks in October.
17	Oct 1996	VICK	Civil War on the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Brochure (continues into FY97)	To enhance heritage tourism and economic development in a seven-state area, the Lower Mississippi Valley Civil War Task Force is developing a brochure that will feature Civil War sites which are open to public discussion of military operations in the Lower Mississippi Valley from 1861-1865, and a narrative on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the war in the Lower Valley. In partnership with State Tourism Offices in the Delta, the research has been done and the brochure will be printed and available in October.
18	Nov 1996	SEAC	Lower Mississippi Delta Mound Study (continues into FY97)	This study identifies approximately 5,200 mounds at 3,130 sites. It provides an evaluation of site conditions/significance and makes recommendations for preservation options. The study will be printed and available to the public in November 1996.



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19	Dec 1996	NATR	Interactive CD-ROM on Delta Archeology (continues into FY97)	Work on the interactive (CD-ROM) program on archeology in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region is 80% complete. This interpretive program for use in parks and State Welcome Centers will be available in December 1996. CD-ROM compatible programs on other Mississippi Delta theme areas are planned.
20	Dec 1996	JELA	Ethnographic Study - Cane River Plantation Life	Oakland Bermuda Plantation was prototypical of the French Creole culture that flourished in this region in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. The major objective of this cultural and historical project is to conduct, record, transcribe, and edit extensive oral history interviews with members of this plantation community and descendants of workers who have had long associations with Prudhomme holdings as slaves or as free labor.



Program Deliverables

Reports

Several reports related to the LMDI were published in 1996. These included the report from the Denver Service Center initiated expert symposium, the earthworks report on the Ouachita Valley, a regionwide archeological survey plan, and the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor study.

Stories of the Delta: Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium

From June 4th-6th, 1996 the Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium, part of phase 1 of the heritage study, was held. The symposium included the NPS Director, the Director of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, and 25 experts on the people, history, economy, and natural resources of the region, who shared stories from their experiences in the Delta (Shapins Associates, Inc. & Sylvia Angell Written Communications, 2006). The report from the symposium provided background to the LMDR, discussed the workshop, shared important stories from the symposium, the themes discussed, and the key sites noted by participants (Shapins Associates, Inc. & Sylvia Angell Written Communications, 2006). Participants' stories touched on the importance of sharing Delta cultures, cultural diversity and vitality, the working people who make up the region, preserving the cotton plantation story for the future, race relations, spirituality, music and the blues, Native American history, and the river and resources and efforts to control it (Shapins Associates, Inc. & Sylvia Angell Written Communications, 2006). The findings from the theme discussions highlighted the history of the people in the region; the social structures and political movements of the people; the cultural values including music, dance, arts and crafts, architecture, literature, recreation, and food; the economic periods of the area; and the environmental changes to both the river and the land (Shapins Associates, Inc. & Sylvia Angell Written Communications, 2006). The final piece of the report was an inventory of important sites, listed by state. While the sites are not intended to be exhaustive, they provide a starting point for identifying places that are unique and important to celebrate and preserve.

"We Know Who We Are": An Ethnographic Overview of the Creole Community and Traditions of Isle Brevelle and Cane River, Louisiana

During initial meetings for the development of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, it was discovered that an ethnographic overview of Cane River did not exist (Gregory & Moran, 1996). This led to funding for a study from Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (Gregory & Moran, 1996). The study included taped oral interviews, participation in a community based heritage development workshop, and participant observation (Gregory & Moran, 1996). The study found that Creole culture was not lost as sometimes has been depicted, but is active and has transpired geographic distances to develop and maintain close networks among the community (Gregory & Moran, 1996). While distance from Cane River may prevail for many Creoles, Gregory and Moran (1996) found that it would always be perceived as home for the community.



Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan

The regionwide archeological survey plan was an initiative of the NPS's Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP), "a systematic research effort designed to locate, evaluate, and document archeological resources in units of the national park system" (NPS, n.d., p.1). To meet the goal of the program regions of the National Park Service were required to develop a plan to survey the resources of the region. The Southeast Archeological Center completed this plan for the Southeast Region. The plan included a description of each park unit in the region, the history of the region, the current status of known archeological resources in the region, the framework and methods for the study including strategies to determine recommendations for the National Register of Historic Places and techniques for inventory and site testing, a categorization framework, and a ranking of resources based on research needs (Keel, Cornelison Jr., & Brewer, 1996).

Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Study Volumes 1 and 2

In 1996 the Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, tasked by Congress to determine the feasibility of designating a National Heritage Corridor along a 2,400-mile stretch of the Mississippi River, published its report. The report reviewed the history and culture of the 120 counties and parishes within 10 states in the region, as well as the natural and recreation resources, transportation, and economy of the area (Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, 1996b). The Commission identified access to information and communication as some of the primary barriers to maximizing the resources of the region but also a key benefit of creating a National Heritage Corridor (Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, 1996a). After completing 17 business meetings with opportunities for public input, mailing three newsletters soliciting public feedback, and ensuring state commissioners regularly communicated with key stakeholders, the Commission mailed out the draft report to 2,700 organizations and individuals for final input (Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, 1996a). The Commission recommended the establishment of a Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor to be managed by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, 1996a). The Mississippi River Parkway Commission, with 55 years of developing partnerships across all 10 states of the region, was in an ideal position to manage the corridor and the Commission felt this structure would allow for existing organizations to continue operations thereby enhancing the feasibility and long-term success of the plan (Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission, 1996a).

Marketing

A variety of marketing efforts were completed in 1996. These included the development of a website, regional tourism content, and materials to promote archeology and civil war history.

LMDI has had a web presence since very early in its history. In FY96 a website was published. According to Paul Hartwig the purpose of the website was to provide "educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region" (LMDI, 1997, p. 2). The first website featured information on the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative program, the legislation, LMDI



partners, and the LMDR heritage study being completed by the Denver Service Center. A unique attribute of the website was that it was linked to the NPS LMDI park webpages within the Delta Region. The website continued to be updated in 1996 with information from the heritage study as it emerged such as the resource inventory and work of the legislative theme groups (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

A Mississippi Delta resource guide was also scheduled to be developed in 1996. The guide would consist of 16 pages highlighting the natural and cultural history of the Mississippi Delta as well as a map with recreational and tourism opportunities in each state (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The goal was for the guide to be shared with travel agents, tourism operators, and tourists to boost tourism to the region (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). Information from the guide would also be shared on the Mississippi Delta webpage. Other intended tourism promotion efforts included the development and distribution of a poster highlighting regional architecture, revising and distributing "The Lower Mississippi River Valley - Nile of the New World" brochure, developing and distributing a heritage tourism map of historic sites available to the public, and partnering with state tourism agencies to create brochures describing heritage sites and corridors in the region (LMDI, 1996).

There were several archeology related promotions occurring in 1996. An education packet was developed for the three Louisiana mounds under consideration for protection (i.e., Watson Brake, Raffman, and Pritchard Landing mounds) (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The education packet emphasized the importance of the mounds and included artwork on them (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The Southeast Archeological Center designed a poster for Louisiana Archeological Week that featured artwork from the Raffman Mounds education folder (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The poster included information about NPS work to protect the mounds as well (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In March 1996 a poster was developed by SEAC and was released to the seven LMDR states, the State Historic Preservation Offices, and NPS units in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. This poster shared information on the earthen mound study and was intended to support heritage education and archeological site protection programs (Hartwig, 1995; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). A driving tour of mound sites in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana was also developed by SEAC and the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office for distribution to tourism centers (LMDI, 1997).

The Lower Mississippi Valley Civil War Task Force worked on publicity for Civil War sites in August of 1996 through the development of a brochure (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The brochure shared publicly accessible sites in the seven-state Lower Mississippi Delta Region as well as the social, cultural, and economic factors of the Civil War (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The goal of the brochure was to increase heritage tourism in the region and improve economic development (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). A single brochure with similar information was completed by the Louisiana Office of Tourism specific to Louisiana Civil War sites in June 1996 (S. Calcote, personal communication, June 12, 1996).



Annual Meeting

Although there was no information as to the occurrence of an annual meeting in 1996, it is likely that a meeting took place.



YEAR 3: 1997

Program Management

In 1997 there were a few known changes to LMDI program management. Communication between NPS Director Roger Kennedy and Robert Dodson, superintendent of Natchez National Historical Park suggests that Robert took on a larger role with LMDI during this time (R. Kennedy, personal communication, March 4, 1997). In addition the following changes occurred:

- NATR: Wendell Simpson replaced Dan Brown as superintendent;
- PERI: Superintendent, Steve Adams, moved on;
- SERO: Jerry Belson became acting regional director in the place of Robert Baker; and
- NPS: Director Roger Kennedy resigned and was replaced by Robert Stanton.

Program Activities

By the third year of the program the intent was to start completing the large legislative requirements and begin smaller tasks. The NPS (1994) briefing report discussed the following tasks for fiscal year 1997:

1. Further develop the Lower Mississippi Delta Region office;
2. Complete the Lower Mississippi Delta Region heritage study to address Section 1103 in the legislation;
3. Begin three of the smaller studies listed in the legislation including the African American heritage study; and
4. Begin funding grant projects for stabilizing archeological resources and providing assistance to museums including
 - a. Small minority and rural museum grants (Section 1104e)
 - b. Historically black colleges and universities historic and prehistoric structures survey (Section 1105)
 - c. Preservation and technical assistance for historic and archeological sites (Section 1107)
 - d. Demonstration project on documentation of archeological records and collections (Section 1107d).

Although the LMDI office space had still not materialized, the Denver Service Center was well into developing the heritage study by 1997. The three smaller studies, assumed to be the African American and Native American Heritage Corridor studies, the music heritage study, and the Delta Antiquities Trail or Delta Antiquities Heritage Corridor study had made some progress. Some conferences related to the heritage corridors had taken place such as the southern cultural landscapes conference. There had not been any major work to achieve the music heritage study yet. Several of the 1996 and 1997 projects aligned with the Delta Antiquities Trail study such as the ancient earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley study, the Lower Mississippi Delta mounds study, and the preservation efforts of the Mississippi mounds, Raffman Mounds, and



Anna Mound. Progress on funding grant projects for stabilizing archeological resources and providing assistance to museums was also made. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial hosted a teleconference on April 30, 1997 on storytelling techniques for interpretation in museums and historic sites (NPS, 1997). This helped to meet the need for assistance to small, minority or rural museums. A project at Alcorn University was initiated in 1997 to locate and inventory historic and prehistoric structures (LMDI, 1997). A variety of efforts to preserve civil war historic sites and archeological mounds had been conducted. No work to date had been completed for the demonstration project.

The following sections describe additional progress made toward addressing the legislation in 1997.

Partnership Development

In 1997, RTCA was planning a conference to encourage partnerships among different organizations within the region (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The intent of the conference was to consider the protection of resources and their promotion for tourism enhancement (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). A facet of this conference was to launch an RTCA grants program that provided small grants, between \$500 to \$1,000, to organizations and communities pursuing organizational development, planning, or promotion efforts (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The RTCA grants program also intended to identify and assist two pilot communities to develop a resource protection and interpretation plan (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)

In 1997 work on the compilation of GIS information continued. It was decided that Natchez Trace Parkway would compile the database of information and serve as the point of contact for sharing it (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). In addition a project to document Arkansas's heritage, specifically natural and cultural resources, and changes over time, through GIS began in 1997 (LMDI, 1997).

Another transportation initiative was started in 1997. Planning for a U.S. 84 corridor from Brunswick, GA to Austin, TX was initiated (LMDI, 1997). The project was strictly in the planning phases, but the hope was if implemented it would boost tourism to the region (LMDI, 1997).

The first project toward meeting the call for a recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan in Section 1103 was started. In 1997 NATC contracted with the U.S. Forest Service to complete a study of Mississippi residents' recreation preferences (LMDI, 1997). This study could have been used as information for a LMDR recreation plan.

Historic and Prehistoric Structures and Sites Survey (Section 1105)

A step toward providing financial assistance to HBCUs to complete a survey of historic and prehistoric structures located at their campuses took place in 1997 as well. A project to plan an environmental education center and cultural complex was funded at Alcorn University (LMDI, 1997). This project intended to build a center to provide



environmental education but also survey earthworks, historic cemeteries, and historic structures at the university site (LMDI, 1997).

Historic and Archeological Resources Program (Section 1107)

Work continued to develop a program for research, interpretation, and preservation of key historic and archeological resources in the delta.

Historic Resources

In 1997 there were several history-related projects. NATC began planning for the 1998 Natchez History Conference. The conference was expected to have more than 300 university attendees to discuss southern history (LMDI, 1997). The intent was to allow for information sharing across experts in the field. RTCA led work to develop a pilot project in which a Civil War site would be identified and assistance provided to preserve and make it a tourism destination (LMDI, 1997). The site would either be a part of the Civil War Discovery Trail or a potential site for the trail (LMDI, 1997). A Civil War heritage trail brochure for Arkansas was also developed in 1997 (LMDI, 1997).

RTCA worked on two living history and interpretive programs in Louisiana during this time. The goal of a project in St. Martinville, LA was to complete extensive research to recreate the Le Petit Paris time period (LMDI, 1997). The project documented progress in writing to store in the Acadian Memorial library for the use of others and included workshops in other communities to enhance learning about the development of living history programs (LMDI, 1997). The second project took place in Tangipahoa Parish, LA and entailed the development of a program describing the late federal period and life for rural Italians in the 19th century (LMDI, 1997). Similar to the other project this one also included written materials housed in libraries, workshops in communities, and shared materials with the Louisiana Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (LMDI, 1997).

Archeological Resources

Preservation of archeological mounds continued to be a primary focus in the early years. A project to preserve Anna's Mound in Mississippi either through an easement or purchase of the land occurred in 1997 (LMDI, 1997). A CD-ROM was also developed to highlight Delta archeology in NPS and state visitor centers across the region (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).

Funding

In 1997 the program was planning to initiate some of legislative requirements and organizational needs. In the briefing report provided to Senator Johnston (NPS, 1994), the following funding needs were identified for 1997.



Table 13: 1994 Estimated Funding Needs for FY97

Funding Need	Amount
Administrative	
Delta Office Expenses	\$500,000
Studies	
Denver Service Center Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)	\$400,000
Three Small Studies	\$300,000
Programs	
Historically Black College and University Survey (Section 1106)	\$1,000,000
Preservation of Historic and Archeological Sites and Technical Assistance (Section 1107)	\$3,000,000
Demonstration Project on Archeological Record and Collection Documentation (Section 1108d)	\$3,000,000
Assistance to Delta Museums (Section 1108a)	\$2,000,000
TOTAL	\$10,200,000

Based on communication from Robert Dodson to a funding recipient, by 1997 funding was available for program projects; however, it may have been available as early as 1996 (R. Dodson, personal communication, February 6, 1997).

Projects

The following table identifies the FY96 education and preservation projects assumed to have been discussed at the 1996 annual meeting as ongoing projects into FY97. Table 15 includes FY97 project proposals. Five of the projects were completed by NATC, three by the Southeast Support Office (SESO), two by ARPO, two by RTCA, and one each for NATR, SEAC, and VICK.



Table 14: FY96 Projects Ongoing into FY97

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested
1	NATR	CD ROM (Archaeology) entitled Delta: The Mother of Waters	Complete phase 2 of the CD-ROM. Specifically the text and audio revisions.	\$30,000
2	VICK	Lower Mississippi Valley Civil War Brochure	Complete and print the brochure.	\$10,000
3	Southeast Support Office (SESO)	Mississippi Delta Traveling Trunks and Teaching Guide	Compile final versions of the six trunks with the collection of hands-on educational tools (videos, brochures, games, and other three-dimensional objects). Produce a teaching guide. The trunks and guides will be held and distributed to schools and organizations through the NPS state coordinators.	\$10,000
4	SEAC	Indian Mounds of Mississippi: A Visitor's Guide	SEAC and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are producing a four-part brochure on Indian Mounds of the Mississippi. Divided into four parts, the brochure will include a short introduction to the project; a chronology and cultural context of Mississippi Indian Mounds to set the stage; the location of eleven publicly accessible mound sites and a brief synopsis of available archaeological and historic information for each of them; and, finally, a short section on learning more and getting involved. Sidebars provide supplemental information about such topics as the Delta Initiative and the location of other cultural resources in the proximity of the mound sites.	\$6,000
5	SESO	Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of New World Webpage	Continued development of and updates to the educational data on the webpage. Major additions to the webpage will include the natural world, feature articles such as the Cario Museum, LMDR discovery trunk, Delta: The Mother of Waters, and the Delta blues.	\$1,000

Table 15: FY97 Project Proposals

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested
1	Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)	Civil War Discovery Trail Workbook Pilot Project	Through this pilot project, a Civil War site will be selected to receive technical assistance to evaluate and set strategies for preserving and developing the site for tourism. Eligible sites may currently be on the Civil War Discovery Trail or may be a potential trail site.	\$10,000
2	SESO	Video Overview of Lower Mississippi Delta Themes and Resource Issues	The primary aim is to present the rich historic and scenic qualities of the project area as represented by specific resources and sites. Emphasis will be placed on capturing the essence of resource subjects as they both relate to and represent broader themes. The	\$15,000



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			video will also briefly identify current and foreseeable threats and address their impact on resource preservation and management. The video will be no longer than 15 minutes running time.	
3	ARPO	Interactive, Internet-Based Geographic Information System for the Arkansas Post/Three Rivers Region	This project proposes to demonstrate the effectiveness of a Geographic Information System (GIS) in providing the structure needed to store, integrate, access, and disseminate the diverse types of information, data, materials, images, and sounds which make up this unique heritage. The project will result in an electronically-based depiction of the region's landscape as it has evolved over time; a depiction which will faithfully represent the complex elements of the region's natural and cultural heritage. The attached file contains the abstract for the project.	\$60,000
4	ARPO	Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail Brochure	Planning, design, and production of a state-wide Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail brochure which would supplement the Lower Mississippi Region Civil War Heritage Trail brochure.	\$50,000
5	NATC	US Forest Service Recreational Survey in MS	This survey would be conducted (contracted) by the U.S. Forest Service and would provide information on the type of recreational needs people living in the state are seeking before the Forest Service or any other land management agency builds them.	\$30,000
6	NATC	Anna's Mound Archeological Work	Anna's Mound is on private property and has been sought by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. They have been trying to get some kind of a preservation easement on the site if not an outright purchase. This mound is virtually untouched and is the largest of 6 mounds in the area. The mound is believed to be the one in which Emerald Mound.	\$8,000
7	NATC	1998 Natchez History Conference	Every two years Natchez National Historical Park coordinates the biannual Natchez History Conference along with the University of California and the Historic Natchez Foundation. Over five other universities that participate make financial contributions. This will be the third conference with over 300 people in attendance over a three day period. The purpose of the conference is to bring together scholars, history professors and archivists from as many universities as possible to share southern history. The ongoing research being conducted in Natchez on the City Court House records is also being unveiled to the academic community for the first time.	\$5,000
8	NATC	Planning of US 84 corridor from GA to TX	This road is identified in the LMDR legislation. It serves as an East - West corridor between Brunswick, GA and Austin, TX. All five states and its highway representatives meet regularly to support each other's effort to promote the four lane work underway and gain support to complete the project. One promotional aspect of this road	* \$3000



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			is the impact it would have on tourism. Each participating organization is asked to contribute \$2,500 to aid in cost of mailing, publication production, and yearly meeting sites. This contribution would show NPS support for the highway as well as support for small communities in two LMDR states (MS, LA).	
9	NATC	Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex Planning	Alcorn University is the oldest historically Black land-grant college and is located 5 miles from the Natchez Trace Parkway. The proposed education center would offer courses in environmental education. It will also seek to locate and catalog earthworks, historic cemeteries, and structures. The funds would be used to develop preliminary plans for the center.	\$65,000
10	RTCA	St Martinville, Louisiana, Heritage Project	This project will develop authentic living history and other interpretive programs that recreate the le petit Paris time period. Written materials (resource surveys, analysis, methods, interpretive methods, clothing patterns, etc.) will be generated and housed in the Acadian Memorial Library so that other communities in the region can also develop authentic programs. Living history programs will be ongoing and workshops will be held in which other communities can learn techniques and interpretation.	* \$5,000
11	RTCA	Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana Heritage Project	This project will help local communities inventory, interpret, and develop programs for the late federal period and for the 19th century rural Italian period. This area of Louisiana contains the largest rural settlement of Italians in the U.S. The late federal period programs would also include southern Mississippi. Workshops, interpretive training, etc. would include other communities in southeastern LA and MS. Resource surveys, analysis, interpretation methods and plans, and materials relative to living history will be generated. Materials will be further distributed through the Louisiana Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and housed in libraries throughout the state.	* \$6,000



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 1997.

Marketing

Marketing efforts continued to emerge in 1997. These included website development and regional and state tourism content.

Funding for the LMDI website was also allocated in FY97. Records for FY97 projects indicate the website was expanded to include further developments and updates to the educational information on the webpage. Some of the new content covered the "natural world," the "delta blues," and special articles such as "the Cario Museum," "LMDR discovery trunk," and "DELTA: The mother of waters." The website also included access to brochures and posters (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The website, called the "Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of the New World," served as the public face of LMDI from approximately 1996-2017.

A project to develop a video to highlight the natural and historic resources of the region and threats to them was underway in 1997 (LMDI, 1997). A brochure specific to Civil War tourism in Arkansas was also completed in 1997.

Annual Meeting

The 1997 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: February 3rd-4th, 1997

Location: Natchez, MS

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting or the topics discussed.



YEAR 4: 1998

Program Management

In 1998 a new unit was added to the LMDI and two superintendents within the LMDI changed.

- Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site was established
- ARPO: Edward E. Wood Jr. replaced Laura Soulliere Gates as superintendent
- CARI: Laura Soulliere Gates became the superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

No information related to funding or projects was available for 1998.

Program Deliverables

Reports

In 1998 the heritage study addressing Section 1103 of the legislation was completed.

Heritage Study Environmental Assessment Lower Mississippi Delta Region Volume 1 and Heritage Study Lower Mississippi Delta Region Volume 2

The heritage study was initiated to meet Section 1103 of P.L. 103-433 of the California Desert Land Protection Act and also addressed Section 1104. The first volume described the legislative requirements for the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative, the geographic region of the LMDI, the stories of the people, places, and events of the delta which leaned on the findings from the Stories of the Delta: Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium report, a series of nine concepts which spanned the key focus areas and findings for the LMDI, and four management alternatives to effectively address Sections 1103 and 1104 of the legislation (NPS, 1998a). The concepts identified in volume 1 included: natural resources as the heart of the delta, manipulating the Mississippi River to facilitate navigation and manage flood flows, a seismic zone road tour, cultural diversity in the region, American Indian heritage in the delta, African-American heritage in the delta, the Civil War, a Delta blues commemorative area, and Delta agriculture (NPS, 1998a). The four management alternatives were a heritage tourism initiative, the establishment of a National Heritage Area, the development of heritage centers, and the development of a delta heritage information network (NPS, 1998a). Finally volume 1 considered how each alternative would impact the environment in the area (NPS, 1998a).

The second volume of the study provided an in-depth review of the history and culture of the region specifically as it pertained to heritage, the economy, and the Civil War; the natural environment including ecoregions, species, resources, protected areas, and natural disasters; and an overview of recreation and the economy in the region with a focus on supply and demand, migration, and transportation (NPS, 1998b). The report also lists the National Historic Landmarks and historic districts, National Natural Landmarks, and catalogs over 2,000 resources in the Delta (NPS, 1998b). The study allowed for Congress to make future decisions on actions to improve the protection of the natural, cultural, and historic resources and enhance regional tourism.



Marketing

Continual updates were made to the LMDI website “Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of the New World.”

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 1998.



YEAR 5: 1999

Program Management

There were no documented changes to program management in 1999.

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

No information related to funding or projects was available for 1999.

Program Deliverables

Reports

In 1999 a study related to the LMDI, pertaining to the future of the Mississippi Delta Region was completed.

Mississippi Delta: Beyond 2000 Inventory

The Mississippi Delta: Beyond 2000 inventory examined the progress made toward meeting the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission's goals put forth in the 1990 report *The Delta Initiatives: Realizing the Dream, Fulfilling the Potential*. The report and inventory provided updates to the 1990 report and detailed the federal work being completed in the region. The federal work included human capital work; natural, physical, and environmental assets accomplishments; business industrial development; and diversity work (Gist, 1999).

Marketing

Continual updates were made to the LMDI website "Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of the New World."

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 1999.



YEAR 6: 2000

Program Management

In 2000 two changes to superintendents of LMDI units occurred.

- CHSC: David Forney was named the first superintendent
- PERI: John Scott became superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

No information related to funding or projects was available for 2000.

Program Deliverables

Reports

A study of the Lower Mississippi Delta mounds was completed in 2000. In addition, a study related to the LMDI, a follow-up study to the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, was completed in 2000.

Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks

The Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks was completed to address Section 1107 of the legislation. The goal of the study was to gather and share all the available data for mounds in four states of the Mississippi Delta Region (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and western Tennessee). A workshop including 30 state and federal government agency representatives and tribe representatives occurred in June 1995 to make decisions regarding data collection and the evaluation of sites (Prentice, 2000). The study formally launched after that point. The resulting report summarized regional cultural history, highlighting the construction of earthen mounds, previous archeological research in the region, the state of the mounds and concerns to preservation, and identified sites for preservation (Prentice, 2000).

Delta Vision, Delta Voices: The Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000

The goal of this report was to showcase the natural, capital, and cultural resources of the Delta and to allow a forum for participation and input from Mississippi Delta stakeholders in the re-growth of the region. Department of Transportation Secretary, Rodney Slater, led the work which focused on four themes: improving the quality of life, revitalizing the regional economy, protecting and restoring the natural resources and the environment to enhance tourism, and promoting regional planning and development (Slater, 2000). Specific topics such as housing, education, infrastructure, health care, disaster assistance, transportation, job training, community development, natural resources, tourism, and regional planning were reviewed in the report (Slater, 2000). The report also included a series of statements from the seven state governors, congress members of the region, and multiple prominent organizations in the region (Slater, 2000).



Marketing

Continual updates were made to the LMDI website “Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of the New World.”

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2000.



YEAR 7: 2001

Program Management

In 2001 one change occurred at the park level and a new director of the NPS was named.

- OZAR: Chris Andress became the superintendent
- NPS: Director Robert Stanton retired and Fran Mainella was appointed director

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

No information related to funding or projects was available for 2001.

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2001.

Marketing

Continual updates were made to the LMDI website “Lower Mississippi River Valley: Nile of the New World.”

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2001.



YEAR 8: 2002

Program Management

In 2002 two changes to superintendents at LMDI units occurred.

- CHSC: David Forney moved on and Laura Miller, the Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources, became the acting superintendent (Harvey & Harvey, 2018)
- OZAR: Chris Andress passed away and Noel Poe was named superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

No information related to funding or projects was available for 2002.

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2002.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2002.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2002.



YEAR 9: 2003

Program Management

In 2003 there were multiple changes in leadership at the LMDI units.

- CHSC: Michael Madell became the permanent superintendent
- HOSP: Roger Giddings retired as superintendent
- JEFF: Gary Easton retired as the superintendent
- NATC: Keith Whisenant replaced Robert Dodson as superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2003 projects was \$230,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 16.

Table 16: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA	4	\$70,000
CARI	2	\$39,000
NATR	2	\$35,000
HOSP	2	\$30,000
ARPO	2	\$25,000
SERO	2	\$16,000
NATC	1	\$15,000

Note. Does not include alternate projects

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 17. Table 17 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 17: FY03 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded
1	ARPO	PMIS 90654 - Delta Rivers RTC	Unknown	\$15,000	\$15,000
2	ARPO	PMIS 90655 - Ethnohistory Study	Unknown	\$10,000	\$10,000
3	CARI	Calendar of Events	Unknown	\$27,050	\$20,000
4	CARI	St. Matthew's School Study	Unknown	\$18,800	\$19,000
5	HOSP	PMIS 90761 - Life Interrupted: The Internment of Japanese Americans in Arkansas	Unknown	\$20,000	\$15,000
6	HOSP	PMIS 90784 - Underground Railroad Research for Arkansas and Missouri	Unknown	\$15,000	\$15,000
7	JELA	Louisiana Purchase Commemoration	Unknown	\$25,000	\$25,000
8	JELA	Haitian Revolution Impact Research	Unknown	\$25,000	\$25,000
9	JELA	African American Military Heritage Group	Unknown	\$25,000	\$15,000
10	JELA	Birding Festival	Unknown	\$7,000	\$5,000
11	NATC	PMIS 100455 - Emergency Conservation of Fire-Damaged Arlington Books	Arlington, a federal-style mansion and National Historic Landmark constructed c. 1818 in Natchez, MS, suffered a major fire on Sunday, September 15, 2002. The attic and second floor of the mansion, the rear gallery, and the dining room on the first floor were almost completely destroyed, with a loss of about all of the building's total contents. Arlington was remarkable as one of only six Natchez mansions still containing a high percentage of original nineteenth-century furnishings. After the fire, a group of dedicated community volunteers worked to salvage furnishings from the mansion and the contents of Arlington's historic library. The joists in the ceiling over the library partially burned through, allowing large volumes of water from fire hoses and subsequent rains to soak the massive bookcases containing first-edition books from the eighteenth-through-mid-nineteenth centuries most with inscriptions connecting them directly to members of the Natchez planter class. This project will transport the frozen volumes in a freezer truck to a professional freeze-drying	\$15,000	\$15,000



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			facility where they will be unpacked, freeze-dried, and repacked for transport back to Natchez. Once the books are back in Natchez, a week-long workshop to train people how to clean soot and mildew from rare books will be held at the Historic Natchez Foundation (HNF) facility. The workshop will be carried out as a joint partnership by the National Park Service, the State of Mississippi (MDAH), and the HNF. A paper conservator will develop the methods and materials list for the workshop, and will be on-site to provide training the first day. Brief training refreshers will be held for new participants each subsequent morning. It is estimated that with 20 participants each day, all water-damaged books from Arlington will be cleaned and re-housed within one week.		
12	NATR	PMIS 90693A - Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at Mount Locust	Unknown	\$25,000	\$20,000
13	NATR	PMIS 90692A - Archeological Investigations for Chickasaw Reburial	Unknown	\$25,000	\$15,000
14	SERO	PMIS 90515 - Joint Southeast/Midwest Region Underground Railroad Gathering	Unknown	\$11,500	\$11,000
15	SERO	PMIS 90511 - Promote Underground Railroad	Unknown	\$5,000	\$5,000
Alternate Projects					
16	CARI	African American Experience Brochure	Unknown	\$7,750	\$7,000
17	NATC	Preserve Adams County Courthouse Records	Unknown	\$15,000	\$10,000
18	SERO	PMIS 90782 - Natchez Mississippi's Forks-of-the-Road Traveling Exhibit	Unknown	\$25,000	\$20,000
19	CARI	Earthenware Pottery Study	Unknown	\$12,372	\$12,372



Those projects that did not receive funding and the reason for this are listed in Table 18.

Table 18: FY03 Requested Projects Not Funded

	NPS Unit	Project	Amount Requested	Reason Not Funded
1	SERO	Underground Railroad Educational Program at Fort Donelson	\$25,000	Removed due to limited focus on one national park unit outside of the LMDR boundary.
2	VICK	Develop Driving Tour Brochure/Install Grant's March Directional Signage	\$20,000	Removed due to a lack of information on the responsibility of the sites in LA and MS and the lack of information provided in the cost estimates.

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2003.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2003.

Annual Meeting

The 2003 annual meeting took place on the following date and at the following location.

Date: October 22nd, 2003

Location: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans, LA

The attendees to the 2003 annual meeting are listed in Table 19.

Table 19: 2003 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Edward Wood	Superintendent	ARPO
Laura Gates	Superintendent	CARI
Geraldine Smith	Superintendent	JELA
Keith Whisenant	Superintendent	NATC
Wendell Simpson	Superintendent	NATR
Frank Miele	Historian	SERO
Paul Hartwig	Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science	SERO
Woody Harrell	Superintendent	SHIL
Bill Nichols	Superintendent	VICK
Chris Miller	Unknown	Unknown
Marta Kelly	Unknown	Unknown
Don Wollenhaupt	Chief of Interpretation	Unknown

The annual meeting included discussions on multiple topics. The conversations and the outcomes are reviewed below.



Standard Operating Procedure for LMDI Funding

The group discussed park eligibility for LMDI funding. The consensus was that there is not enough money to cover existing grant needs and additional park units should not be added to compete for the grant money. The action item from this discussion was to review the legislation and 318 county area to determine which parks are within the “authorized” boundary of the LMDI. The group also discussed whether regional office programs should be eligible to compete for grants or be required to be sponsored by an LMDR park. The consensus was that, where possible, SERO programs should find a LMDR park sponsor but it is not required.

Tracking Projects in PMIS

Paul Hartwig shared with the Board how projects could be entered into PMIS and provided a sheet to assist with the process. The Board unanimously requested that LMDI be set up as a fund source to allow projects to be entered under the park acronym in PMIS. After following up on the action item from the meeting, Paul Hartwig notified the Board that LMDI cannot be a fund source because the money comes from Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) base funding. PMIS fund sources are for project funding, but LMDI received permission to use PMIS to track the projects. They discussed that LOMI would be the identified park alpha code for LMDI-funded projects, and parks would need to include their acronym at the beginning of the project title so that the park could be easily identified with the project. In the review of the Project and Component Data Report from PMIS for the administrative history, it was found that the correct naming protocol for projects does not always occur.

Summary of FY03 Funding

The LMDI parks shared updates on the status of their FY03 projects and their achievements.

FY04 Project Prioritization Session

The Board reached consensus on the projects to recommend to the regional director for funding. Several superintendents made concessions in the amounts to their projects to help reach a consensus. An additional \$5,000 was added to the contingency total for unforeseen project needs and specifically to provide \$3,000 to \$5,000 to the National Slave Ship Museum feasibility study if the Museum developed a request to be sponsored by JELA.

Need for Additional Funding

After allocating the existing funds, the Board discussed the need for additional LMDI funding. They agreed that Paul Hartwig and the Midwest Regional Office would prepare Operations Formulation System (OFS) increase statements in the amount of \$450,000 for the LMDI.

Meeting Wrap-Up

The dates of the upcoming underground railroad conference were shared with attendees and they were invited to attend. The Board agreed that the next annual



meeting would occur on October 19, 2004 at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Headquarters.



YEAR 10: 2004

Program Management

In 2004 several changes occurred at the park and regional levels.

- HOSP: Josie Fernandez became superintendent
- JEFF: Peggy O'Dell became superintendent
- VICK: William Nichols retired and Monika Mayr became superintendent
- SERO: Director Jerry Belson retired

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2004 projects was \$237,500. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 20.

Table 20: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA	3	\$59,500
NATC	2	\$27,500
UGRR	1	\$12,000
VICK	1	\$8,000
NATR	1	\$6,000

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 21.



Table 21: FY04 Funded Projects

NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner	
1	JELA	PMIS 100553A – Provide Living History Educational Exhibits Representing Indigenous South LA Native American Tribes	This project is a joint partnership between the National Park Service and Vermilionville - a living history museum and folklife village inclusive of 23 acres adjacent to NPS property with a shared boundary. This project will expand interpretive and educational opportunities by providing a high quality "Indian village representation" which appeals to a diversity of audiences.	\$14,700	\$14,700	Vermilionville
2	JELA	PMIS 100581A – Old Notes, New Notes – A Cultural Arts Music Program	Tambourine & Fan in cooperation with the National Park Service proposes to implement Old Notes, New Notes, an original community-based cultural arts music program that will foster enhanced critical thinking, listening, concentration, and self-discipline abilities among children (grades K-12). Through the creative utilization of music and aural forms, Old Notes, New Notes will motivate students to engage in innovative arts-oriented listening, lecture/ demonstrations, research projects, and performances.	\$24,850	\$24,800	Tambourine & Fan
3	JELA	PMIS 100584A – Conduct Community Engagement Projects	This LMDI project would provide \$20,000 toward assisting four community-based organizations in partnership with New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park produce educational workshops and performances. The money would be used to fund instructors, supplies, and transportation.	\$20,000	\$20,000	Unspecified community organizations
4	NATC	PMIS 100458A – Special Cultural Landscape Study – The Thomas Affleck Papers	The Thomas Affleck collection in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections (LLMVC) at Louisiana State University (LSU) consists of five containers of papers; four containers of manuscript volumes such as diaries, memorandum books, notebooks, recipe books, and letter books; one container of printed pamphlets; three containers of newspapers; two containers of typescripts; one container of printed volumes; and one container of oversize material for a total of 12 linear feet of	\$10,000	\$10,000	Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at the Louisiana State University library



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			papers; 43 manuscript volumes; and 6 printed volumes. This special cultural landscape study will generate a detailed report on Affleck's nursery and agricultural operations with information useful to many NPS sites and other historic sites and homes across the Southeast. The information can be distributed by CD and in printed form, and can be posted to the internet for widest distribution.			
5	NATC	PMIS 100565A – Create Accessible Historic Records Database	The project will be managed under a partnership between Natchez National Historical Park and the Historic Natchez Foundation. This project will create an accessible database for Adams County court records dated between 1822 and 1865.	\$17,500	\$17,500	Historic Natchez Foundation
6	NATR	PMIS 100446A – Clean and Repair the Cowles Mead Cemetery	Cowles Mead Cemetery is located in Hinds County, MS on the Natchez Trace Parkway. The cemetery has three burials: Cowles Mead, his wife, and son. Cowles Mead was the third secretary of the Mississippi Territory and acting governor of the Mississippi Territory in 1806 and 1807. This project would consist of removing bushes and weeds from the cemetery, cleaning the markers and repairing the cast iron fence.	\$25,000	\$6,000	Unknown
7	UGRR	PMIS 110160A – Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum Brochures	This project will help design and produce 40,000 brochures for the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum in Memphis, TN. The brochure will consist of an informative color presentation that will highlight the ambiance of the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum (Burkle estate).	\$12,000	\$12,000	Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum
8	VICK	PMIS 100444A – Clean and Repair the Tombstones at Grindstone Ford Cemetery	The Grindstone Ford Cemetery is located in Claiborne County, MS. The cemetery was started circa 1800 and the last person was buried in 1854. The cemetery is in poor condition. Many of the markers are broken and are becoming increasingly illegible. This proposed project would consist of professionally repairing and cleaning the broken markers.	\$25,000	\$8,000	Unknown



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2004.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2004.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2004.



YEAR 11: 2005

Program Management

In 2005 two changes in leadership occurred at LMDI park units.

- NATC: Superintendent Keith Whisenant left for Everglades National Park
- ULSG: Michael Ward became the superintendent

Program Activities

In 2005 the Lower Mississippi Delta Region was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. As a result, seven of the LMDI NPS units (CARI, JELA, JAZZ, NATC, NATR, SHIL, and VICK) wrote letters to the senators and representatives in their area emphasizing the importance of the LMDI program to influencing tourism and heritage in the region. These letters encouraged the congressional members to contact the superintendent of the unit to discuss opportunities to collaborate in rebuilding portions of the Delta.

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 22.

Table 22: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA	2	\$43,500
NATC	2	\$27,500
NATR	1	\$25,000
ARPO	2	\$23,000
SHIL	2	\$15,500
CHSC	1	\$10,000
SERO	1	\$8,000

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 23.



Table 23: FY05 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	ARPO	PMIS 110051A - Heritage by Bike	This project calls for funding to support two workshops on bicycle heritage tourism for states, communities, and heritage attractions in the Lower Mississippi River Delta. The workshops will bring together people from diverse backgrounds and professional perspectives: bicycle tour directors, heritage attraction managers, and trail planners, to explore the strategies needed to make the Mississippi Delta a worldwide destination for bicycle tourism that takes full advantage of the region's rich natural and cultural heritage resources.	\$18,000	\$18,000	Mississippi River Trail Inc.
2	ARPO	PMIS 110052A - 4 th Annual Big Woods Birding Festival	This project will assist Visions for Clarendon to conduct the 4th Annual Big Woods Birding Festival by providing financial support to locate and hire a noted individual to serve as the keynote speaker and to help attract a larger crowd to the festival activities. The festival focuses on the interpretation of birds found along the White River and provides activities directed at increasing attendees' understanding and appreciation for the cultural and natural setting along the river shoreline.	\$6,000	\$5,000	Visions for Clarendon
3	CHSC	PMIS 110082A - The Media and Desegregation in Arkansas: Class Unit	Create and distribute a curriculum-based class unit that examines the media's influence on public opinion and reaction during the integration of public schools in Arkansas.	\$15,711	\$10,000	Southeast Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative in Monticello, Arkansas and staff of Central High School National Historic Site
4	JELA	PMIS 110137A - National Slave Ship Museum	This proposal seeks to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to substantiate the storyline, identify target audiences, determine and confirm anticipated support, and establish a preliminary budget, as well as an	\$25,000	\$25,000	Orleans Parish Public School System, Southern University at New Orleans, Entergy Corporation of New



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			operational budget. This museum concept was endorsed by U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, and named Landrieu Project 146300.			Orleans, the Urban Design Research Center
5	JELA	PMIS 110138A/ B - A Remembrance to Celebrate the Acadian Story	The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserves' Acadian Cultural Center in partnership with diverse entities will host a remembrance in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Acadian Deportation. The event consists of three components; a festival to be held on Saturday August 13, 2005, a play, and lead-in cultural programming. The festival will consist of vendors and craftspeople performing interactive cultural demonstrations as well as music performances and food vendor(s).	\$14,600	\$18,500	Acadian Cultural Center
6	NATC	PMIS 100565B - Create Accessible Historic Records Database	The project will be managed under a partnership between Natchez National Historical Park and the Historic Natchez Foundation. This project will create an accessible database for Adams County court records dated between 1822 and 1865.	\$17,500	\$17,500	Historic Natchez Foundation
7	NATC	PMIS 110140A - Support Natchez Conference: Between Two Worlds – Free Blacks in the Antebellum South	In February 23-27, 2004, a conference will be sponsored in Natchez, MS by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC) on the topic of free-blacks in the antebellum south. Speakers, such as Dr. Ira Berlin from the University of Maryland, who are experts in this area of research will be coming to Natchez for this conference. The NLCC is co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Archives and History, Mississippi Public Television and the NPS. This project will assist Copiah Lincoln Community College with a portion of the expenses necessary to hold this conference.	\$16,000	\$10,000	Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC)
8	NATR	PMIS 110104A - Rehabilitate Old Natchez Trace Section in Mississippi	Rehabilitate a section of Old Natchez Trace in Mississippi located between mileposts 17.2 and 20.2. The trail is just over three miles long, features 30 foot high banks in some places, and is the best trail/Old Trace section along the Natchez Trace Parkway. The trail, however, is	\$25,000	\$25,000	Unknown



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			basically unusable due to the fact that over the years numerous large trees have fallen along the trail making it impassable in many places. The proposed project would enable the park to contract the removal of the trees using animal power. By using animal power versus mechanical removal, the impact to the Old Trace section would be kept to a minimum.			
9	SHIL	PMIS 110115A - Conduct In-Service Teacher Workshop on LMDI Themes	Shiloh National Military Park will partner with Northeast Mississippi Community College and Program of Research & Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, to conduct a week long, residential in-service workshop for teachers built on the themes of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative. Thirty social studies teachers from northern Mississippi and western Tennessee will meet for field trips, evening sessions, and networking at Crow's Neck Environmental Education and Conference Center to learn about cultural resources in the area they can incorporate into their curriculum. Each day will focus on a separate topic, such as pre-historic Indians, the African-American experience and the American Civil War.	\$12,500	\$12,500	Northeast Mississippi Community College and PREPS Inc.
10	SHIL	PMIS 110117A - Conduct Assessment of Civil War Battlefields in West Tennessee	Shiloh National Military Park will partner with the Tennessee Wars Commission and the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) to produce a web based assessment of Civil War battlefields in West Tennessee.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Tennessee Wars Commission and Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association
11	SERO	PMIS 110083A - Civil War Causes Exhibit	Creation and fabrication of a single, wall-mounted exhibit panel that addresses the causes of the Civil War. The panel will be used in exhibits at seven or more southeast Civil War parks that currently do not address causes in their museum exhibits. The panel will be laminate on plywood. Text and images will be put together by SERO Interpretation and History staff.	\$17,000	\$8,000	Unknown



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2005.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2005.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2005.



YEAR 12: 2006

Program Management

In 2006 several changes occurred to leadership within the LMDI and at the Service level.

- JELA: David Luchsinger replaced Geraldine Smith as superintendent
- NATC: Kathleen Jenkins was named superintendent
- NATR: Superintendent Wendell Simpson moved on
- NPS: Director Fran Mainella retired and Mary Bomar became director

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 24.

Table 24: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$49,000
CARI	2	\$40,000
VICK	2	\$38,000
NATC	2	\$35,000
ARPO	2	\$21,000
NATR	1	\$20,000
SERO	1	\$15,000
CHSC	1	\$10,000

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 25.



Table 25: FY06 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	ARPO	PMIS 118761A - Gillett Centennial Celebration	This project will assist the small City of Gillett, Arkansas to conduct the centennial celebrations of the founding of the community by providing financial support to enable the development of festival infrastructure, entertainment and historical activities and events. This festival will highlight the natural and cultural heritage of the immediate area.	\$11,000	\$11,000	City of Gillett, Arkansas
2	ARPO	PMIS 118763A - Choo Choo Ch'Boogie Delta Music Festival	This project will provide funding assistance to conduct the 3rd Annual Choo Choo Ch'Boogie Delta Music Festival in Brinkley, Arkansas. The financial support will enable the festival to attract professional musicians to represent the genres of gospel, country, rock and roll, and blues to perform during the event. This festival will highlight the cultural heritage of the Delta area and contribute to an increase in appreciation and understanding of the rich heritage reflected in regional music.	\$9,500	\$10,000	Central Delta Historical Society (event sponsor)
3	CARI	PMIS 119173A - Calendar of Events: 2006	Cane River Creole National Historical Park and the Cane River National Heritage Area seeks \$20,000 to augment its limited interpretive offerings by developing a series of public and education based programs that interpret the landscapes, historic sites, and the myriad of cultural traditions found in the region. A joint calendar of events would be designed and published to provide tourists with a detailed listing of programs and special events sponsored by the park and Heritage Area.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Cane River National Heritage Area
4	CARI	PMIS 119172A - Louisiana Regional Folklife Program	This project would allow the Caddo Historic Preservation Office and Repatriation Committee to spend a week in Louisiana to visit five mound groupings of special significance to the Caddo, upstreaming from the late pre-contact to the archaic periods. At the completion of this project, the Louisiana Regional Folklife Program (LRFP) will develop and post a project overview online on the LRFP website.	\$14,900	\$15,000	Caddo Historic Preservation Office and Repatriation Committee



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5	CHSC	PMIS 118638A - Develop Interactive Exhibits for Southern Tenant Farmers Museum	This project will address a need that is currently unmet in the Delta Region--interpreting the history of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and its role in the changing agricultural economy of the Mississippi Delta.	\$10,050	\$10,000	Arkansas State University
6	JAZZ	PMIS 119241A - Jazz Oral History Project in Partnership with the New Orleans Jazz Commission	New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in conjunction with the New Orleans Jazz Commission seeks project funding in the amount of \$24,500 to implement an oral history project. Interviews of musicians and other persons that have helped to create and develop jazz music will be conducted. The interviews will be made available to the public in hard copy form and DVD. The project will also serve as guide for other parks' or businesses with similar plans.	\$24,000	\$24,000	New Orleans Jazz Commission
7	JELA	PMIS 118382A/B/ C - Developing an Appreciation and Understanding of the Cultural Heritage and Diversity of Acadiana	The diverse cultural programming addressed in this proposal will substantially enhance the visitor experience as well as provide for increased levels of visitor understanding and satisfaction. The festival and events will engage community members in a variety of educational and culturally oriented activities. This proposal directly addresses one of the major park themes identified in the long range interpretive plan: the cultural diversity of South Louisiana. Community engagement is a vital element of the festival and programming. A well-advertised and well organized event will attract hundreds of visitors not only from surrounding parishes, but nationwide as well.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Acadian Cultural Center
8	NATC	PMIS 118966A - Develop Wayside Exhibits for Bluff Trails in Natchez, MS	This project will assist with the development of wayside exhibits along a new series of walking and bicycling trails on three tiers on top of and below the Natchez bluffs.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Public-Private Partnerships
9	NATC	PMIS 118967A - Develop Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Information for Museum Documents	Through a partnership with the Historic Natchez Foundation, this project would develop materials on disaster preparedness and recovery and disseminate the information to heritage tourism sites within the LMDI area. The materials will address a variety of structural and object-related issues relating to both buildings and collections.	\$12,000	\$10,000	Historic Natchez Foundation



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10	NATR	PMIS 118902A - Develop Trail Heads for Old Natchez Trace Trail in Mississippi	This is phase B of a previously funded LMDI project, which was funded in the amount of \$33,500. The Natchez Trace Parkway has within its boundaries a 3.3 mile stretch of Old Natchez Trace that is very indicative of the sunken road that the Old Natchez Trace is famous for. The Parkway wishes to add this pristine section of Old Trace trail to the National Scenic Trail System. In order to achieve this it will be necessary to develop the trail head at each end of the trail. This will involve the development of gravel parking lots with pinned-down timber or log curbs, kiosks for trail related information, signage at the trail head and leading to the trail, and garbage facilities.	\$25,000	\$20,000	Unknown
11	SERO	PMIS 119214A - (INT) Freedom Garden (River Road African American Museum) UGRR	The purpose of this project is to improve the overall experience for visitors to the museum and to educate visitors about Louisiana involvement in the Underground Railroad. Under this concept visitors would follow a trail through the sculpture garden community where interpretive panels and vegetation related to the Louisiana Underground Railroad experience will be exhibited.	\$15,000	\$15,000	River Road African American Museum
12	VICK	PMIS 118862A - Develop Visitor Center Exhibit Depicting US Colored Troops at Milliken's Bend	Working with local interest groups and artists, this project consists of constructing a diorama-type exhibit to depict the participation of United States Colored Troops at the battle of Milliken's Bend, LA, which will fill in a missing component from the array of representative exhibits in the park visitor center.	\$22,500	\$23,000	Local interest groups and artists
13	VICK	PMIS 118853A - Develop Brochures and Signed Trail to Interpret Civil War Bayou Expeditions	This project will produce self-guided brochures and a signed trail to connect and interpret a minimum of twelve historic sites that were part of Steele's Bayou Expedition, which was one of Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant's attempts to approach and take Confederate held Vicksburg using the watercourses of Mississippi's Delta north of the city. The project will be completed as a cooperative effort of Mississippi's Lower Delta Partners and the Vicksburg National Military Park.	\$15,000	\$15,000	Mississippi's Lower Delta Partners



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2006.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2006.

Annual Meeting

The 2006 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: October 24th-25th, 2006

Location: Weaver Center, Corinth, MS

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting.

A variety of topics were discussed at the 2006 annual meeting and include the following items:

- Discussion on the status of an LMDI logo and LMDI brochure;
- Discussion on the effects of the LMDI informational letters sent to congressional representatives;
- Parks reported on the status of FY 2006 projects and FY 2007 project proposals;
- Discussion and reaffirmation of the revised guidelines developed at the last meeting for prioritizing projects;
- Discussion on how to ascertain that project selection guidelines reflect specific LMDI legislative language;
- Discussion on developing an agreement/grant template based on that specific legislative language;
- Parks voted on and selected FY 2007 projects; and
- Site selection for FY 2008 prioritizing session.

There were not notes available to identify the meeting outcomes.



YEAR 13: 2007

Program Management

In 2007 several changes in leadership at LMDI park units occurred.

- BUFF: Kevin Cheri became the superintendent
- JEFF: Superintendent Peggy O'Dell left for National Mall and Memorial Parks
- NATR: Stennis Young filled the vacant superintendent role

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2007 projects was \$230,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 26.

Table 26: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	5	\$76,006
VICK	2	\$35,000
CHSC	2	\$26,000
ARPO	1	\$20,000
NATC	1	\$20,000
NATR	1	\$20,000
CARI	3	\$19,000
FODO	1	\$10,000

Note. Does not include alternate projects

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 27. Table 27 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 27: FY07 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	Amount Funded	Partner
1	ARPO	PMIS 128992A - African American Experiences in the Arkansas Delta – Video	This project will develop and produce a 15-20 minute video to document the experiences of African Americans living in Eastern Arkansas during the latter part of the 20th Century (1920-1970).	\$20,000	\$20,000	Southern Arkansas Tech University in collaboration with the Drew County Chapter of the NAACP and the Arkansas Department of Economic Development (Film Office)
2	CARI	PMIS 128337A - Develop Events which Focus on the Park's Significance	Eight park events will be staged which highlight the primary interpretive themes of the park. One event will focus on each of the following topics: Creole culture, rivers, diverse peoples, slavery and emancipation, labor systems, vernacular architecture, religious systems, and agriculture.	\$6,400	\$7,000	Unknown
3	CARI	PMIS 128338A - Develop Web Pages on African American History and Culture for Park Website	The City of Natchitoches as well as the rural areas along the Cane River have a rich history of ethnic and cultural diversity. If this history could be made available on the park website, many families, researchers, historical organizations, and churches would benefit. Providing access to digital information including photographs, maps, ethnographic studies, historical research, and oral history interviews would support the park's commitment to promoting a more accurate picture of the past, thereby allowing the diverse cultures of the Cane River region, including Creole and African communities, an opportunity to develop pride in the cultural legacies that this park preserves.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSU)
4	CARI	PMIS 128339A - Produce Video and Photos of Archeological Investigations and Restorations	A professional videographer/photographer will be hired to obtain still and video footage of current restoration and archeological investigations. These images will be made available on the park website and through media releases, and may also be incorporated into the formal park movie, should that project become funded.	\$6,500	\$7,000	Unknown



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5	CHSC	PMIS 128715A - Develop Exhibit on African American Education in Arkansas	As its contribution to the community-wide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High School, the Museum of Discovery proposes to create a museum exhibit that honors, recognizes, and interprets Little Rock's Dunbar High School, and the important role of that school in educating the state's African Americans in the years before school integration. The completed exhibit will tell the story of Dunbar High through historical documents, filmed oral history interviews, and memorabilia of both the school and its students.	\$13,500	\$14,000	Museum of Discovery
6	CHSC	PMIS 118789A - Preserve Historic Records (Arkansas County, AR)	This project will expand, refine, update, and reprint an outdated African-American heritage tourism brochure that is approximately 10 years old and currently out of print. More focus will be placed on post-Civil War themes such as Reconstruction and Civil Rights. It will include directions for walking tours relating to African-American history in Natchez.	\$11,380	\$12,000	Records Section of the Arkansas County Judge
7	FODO	PMIS 71131A – Replace the Dover Hotel Audio-Visual Program	Unknown	\$10,000	\$10,000	Unknown
8	JAZZ	PMIS 128993A - Jazz Cell Phone Walking Tour	This project will produce a cell phone walking tour covering locations important to preservation and progression of jazz in New Orleans. Candide Media, Inc. would produce an eight stop Jazz Tour. Each stop will last 2-3 minutes and the entire tour will last 45 minutes, including walking time. The Jazz Tour will function as a stand-alone tour, but will also be included in the Candide Media, Inc. New Orleans City Tour.	\$15,000	\$10,547.04	Candide Media, Inc.
9	JAZZ	PMIS 133496A - Jazz Oral History Project in Partnership with the New Orleans Jazz Commission	The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in conjunction with the New Orleans Jazz Commission seeks funding in the amount of \$24,000 to broaden the scope and interpretive mission of the oral/video history program. This project will work with the Park Museum Management Program in expanding the oral	\$24,000	\$15,458.70	New Orleans Jazz Commission



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			history interpretive package to include scanned materials and actual musical interludes of the interviewee.			
10	JELA	PMIS 128929 - New Orleans Maritime History: Research and Develop Education Programs	Funding will allow Jean Lafitte NHPP (JELA) to hire a contractor to research, and consolidate information, photographs, and human-interest stories related to the commercial maritime history of New Orleans from 1718 to 1942.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum and Research Center (LPBMM)
11	JELA	PMIS 128929A - Bayou LaFourche African American Research	This project would enable the historical sites in the region to better share the African American experience in with up to 200,000 people per year.	\$25,000	\$17,000	University of New Orleans History Department, River Road African American Museum, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
12	JELA	PMIS 128507 A/B - The Marquis de LaFayette Exhibit and Cultural Series Lectures	The diverse cultural programming addressed in this proposal will substantially enhance the visitor experience as well as provide for increased levels of visitor understanding and satisfaction. These events will engage community members in a variety of educational and culturally oriented activities. This proposal directly addresses one of the major park themes identified in the long range interpretive plan: the cultural heritage of South Louisiana. Community engagement is a vital element of the festival and programming.	\$7,900	\$8,000	Acadian Cultural Center
13	NATC	PMIS 129009A - African American Heritage Tourism Brochure for Natchez: Revise and Reprint	This project will expand, refine, update, and reprint an outdated African-American heritage tourism brochure that is approximately 10 years old and currently out of print. More focus will be placed on post-Civil War themes such as Reconstruction and Civil Rights. It will include directions for walking tours relating to African-American history in Natchez.	\$25,000	\$20,000	City of Natchez
14	NATR	PMIS 128957A - Historic Structure Report for CCC Group Cabins at	Prepare a structure report to guide the rehabilitation of five group cabins that were originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936.	\$20,000	\$20,000	Tishomingo State Park



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		Tishomingo State Park				
15	VICK	PMIS 118853B - Develop Brochures and Signed Trail to Interpret Civil War Bayou Expeditions	This project will produce self-guided brochures and a signed trail to connect and interpret a minimum of twelve historic sites that were part of Steele's Bayou Expedition, which was one of Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant's attempts to approach and take Confederate held Vicksburg using the watercourses of Mississippi's Delta north of the city. The project will be completed as a cooperative effort of Mississippi's Lower Delta Partners and Vicksburg National Military Park.	\$12,000	\$12,000	Mississippi's Lower Delta Partners
16	VICK	PMIS 128536A - Develop Tour Guide Training and Certification Program – Phase 1	Develop a training and certification program for three levels of tour guides to serve the variety of tourist needs in the Vicksburg area. The program will consist of classroom and hands-on training as well as developing four standard tours: driving and walking tours of historic downtown and driving and walking tours of art and architecture including in Vicksburg National Military Park.	\$23,000	\$23,000	Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the various members of the Vicksburg-Warren Community Alliance interested in enhancing heritage tourism
Alternate Projects						
17	NATR	Self-Guided Nature Trail Brochure and Signs for Tishomingo State Park		\$25,000		
18	VICK	Initiate Mississippi Field Institute – Year 1		\$25,000		



Those projects that did not receive funding are listed in Table 28.

Table 28: FY07 Requested Projects Not Funded

	NPS Unit	Project	Amount Requested	Reason Not Funded
1	JELA	Document Latin American Cultures in Southeastern Louisiana	\$25,000	Unknown
2	JELA	Purchase of Remote Video Conferencing Equipment to Support Park Partnerships and Education Programs	\$25,000	Unknown

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2007.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2007.

Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: October 23rd-24th, 2007

Location: Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, AR

The attendees on the annual meeting agenda included those in Table 29. Others not listed also attended.

Table 29: 2007 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Michael Madell	Superintendent	CHSC
Judy Kelly	Solicitor's Office	SERO
Kim Washington	Contracting Representative	SERO
Frank Miele	Historian	SERO
Paul Hartwig	Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science	SERO

A variety of topics were discussed at the 2007 annual meeting and include the following items:

- LMDI agreements and contracting;
- Standard operating procedures reaffirmation or changes;
- FY 2007 projects discussion and status review;
- FY 2008 prioritizing session;
- Presentation of projects; and
- Voting on projects.

There were not notes available to identify the meeting outcomes.



YEAR 14: 2008

Program Management

In 2008 several leadership changes in LMDI units and at the regional level occurred.

- CHSC: Robin White replaced Michael Madell as superintendent
- JEFF: Tom Bradley filled the superintendent vacancy
- OZAR: Reed Detring replaced Noel Poe as superintendent
- ULSG: Superintendent Michael Ward left for Voyageurs National Park
- SERO: David Vela became the director

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2008 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 30.

Table 30: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	4	\$73,000
CARI	4	\$54,000
NATC	2	\$39,000
VICK	2	\$34,000
ARPO	1	\$20,000
SHIL	1	\$8,000

Note. Does not include alternate projects

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 31. Table 31 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 31: FY08 Funded Projects

NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	Amount Funded	Partner	
1	ARPO	PMIS 138280A - First Annual Richard Wright Literacy and Arts Festival	This project will support the first annual Richard Wright Literary and Arts Festival in the Helena- West Helena area during September 4-7, 2008. This festival will celebrate and commemorate the 100th birthday of Richard Wright, an African American, who was one of America's most influential writers.	\$20,000	\$20,000	E.C. Morris Foundation, the local school district, the Phillips County Literacy Council, the African American Preservation Alliance, Inc., the Arkansas Humanities Council, the Arkansas Department of Heritage, the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, and numerous other public and private organizations.
2	CARI	PMIS 119173B - Calendar of Events	Cane River Creole National Historical Park and the Cane River National Heritage Area seeks \$20,000 to augment its limited interpretive offerings by developing a series of public and education based programs that interpret the landscapes, historic sites, and the myriad of cultural traditions found in the region. A joint calendar of events would be designed and published to provide tourists with a detailed listing of programs and special events sponsored by the park and Heritage Area.	\$6,400	\$6,000	Cane River National Heritage Area
3	CARI	PMIS 138245A - Creole Language for Creole People	Funding from the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative will be used to conduct a preliminary assessment of 10 identified Creole speech communities to address the concerns regarding the loss of language and knowledge associated with traditional practices. Work within these communities is needed to develop ways to address this loss that conform with community needs.	\$18,280	\$14,000	Louisiana Regional Folklife Program and the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium



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			LMDI funds will be utilized as a planning and capacity building grant.			
4	CARI	PMIS 138245B – Matched Budget by NSULA & Dillard University	Funding from the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative will be used to conduct a preliminary assessment of 10 identified Creole speech communities to address the concerns regarding the loss of language and knowledge associated with traditional practices. Work within these communities is needed to develop ways to address this loss that conform with community needs. LMDI funds will be utilized as a planning and capacity building grant.	\$14,300	\$14,000	Budget Matched by Northwestern State University & Dillard University;
5	CARI	PMIS 137905A - Discovering How People of African Descent are Interpreted in Louisiana Plantation Sites	This project has the overarching goal of facilitating dialog and understanding about the importance of interpreting people of African descent in adequate, appropriate, relevant, and effective ways. Both private and public plantations will be the focus of discussions and investigations. The project will create a preliminary survey of current services, as well as identify challenges, shortfalls, and strengths in the interpretation of the African legacy in Louisiana's network of historic plantations.	\$20,000	\$20,000	
6	JAZZ	PMIS 138414A - Restore Jazz Walk of Fame	This project will restore the Jazz Walk of Fame by replacing the damaged or missing "street signs" containing famous musicians names on 160 lampposts along a stretch of the Mississippi Levee on the west bank of New Orleans. The broken sound buttons on each lamp will be replaced by an iPod/cell phone downloadable tour.	\$23,000	\$23,000	



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7	JAZZ	PMIS 138408A - Restore Louis Armstrong Statue	Restore storm damaged Louis Armstrong Memorial Park Bronze statue that is center piece of the city park and a major cultural tour destination.	\$9,000	\$9,000	
8	JELA	PMIS 138213A - Research and Create Native American Slavery Issues Exhibit to Preserve Unique Culture in Acadiana	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserves, Acadian Cultural Center in partnership with tribal members, governmental state and local entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) will host a Native American slavery exhibit created with the research gathered from primary documents and oral histories. This research will be gathered from the Gilder Lehrman Center for the study of slavery, resistance and abolition (CT or NY) and the Library of Congress. The research gathered will provide data for interpretive programming which will be utilized throughout the park, and available to educational institutes or organizations desiring to expand the understanding of the subject. The exhibit will be transportable.	\$15,825	\$16,000	Acadian Cultural Center in partnership with tribal members, governmental state and local entities, NGO's
9	JELA	PMIS 138395A - Experience Louisiana's Culture and Wetlands – Children's Museum Exhibition	The Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program and Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation have asked the National Park Service if we can contribute funds and expertise toward the design, construction, and sponsorship of the traveling children's museum exhibit entitled "Immersion- A Louisiana Wetland Experience."	\$25,000	\$25,000	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, and the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
10	NATC	PMIS 138519A - Natchez Garden Tours	This project, a multi-year task by the Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill, will research, design, and renovate	\$25,000	\$25,000	Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill



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		by Preservation Society of Ellicott Hall	historic gardens in order to explain to tourists and citizens about Southern gardening in the nineteenth century. We will use the parterre garden of Magnolia Hall and the gardens of the House on Ellicott Hill as examples of how Victorians in our region imported exotic plants from around the world and used native plants to entertain and enlighten guests about nature and the Natchez environment.			
11	NATC	PMIS 138520A - Historic Natchez City Cemetery Tours	This project will provide equipment to enhance the annual Angels on the Bluff living history presentations and to create walking tours for visitors. Angels on the Bluff is a fall theatrical production of about seven vignettes using local volunteers to portray various important and/or fascinating individuals buried in the historic cemetery.	\$14,000	\$14,000	Angels on the Bluff
12	SHIL	PMIS 138527A - Sponsor a Corinth Heritage Festival	Sponsor a Heritage Festival in downtown Corinth, Mississippi. One of the main highlights of the festival will be the placement and lighting of roughly 8,000 luminaries at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and throughout the historic district, representing the actual number of soldier casualties resulting from the Battle of Corinth fought in October 1862.	\$8,000	\$8,000	the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, the Corinth Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Main Street Corinth, as well as local civil clubs, organizations, the downtown business district, and area public schools
13	VICK	PMIS 128536B - Develop Tour Guide Training and Certification Program	Develop a training and certification program for three levels of tour guides to serve the variety of tourist needs in the Vicksburg area. The program will consist of classroom and hands-on training as well as developing four standard tours: driving and walking tours of historic	\$22,000	\$22,000	Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the various members of the Vicksburg-Warren Community Alliance interested in enhancing heritage tourism



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			downtown and driving and walking tours of art and architecture including in Vicksburg National Military Park.			
14	VICK	PMIS 118853C - Develop Brochures and Signed Trail to Interpret Civil War Bayou Expeditions	This project will produce self-guided brochures and a signed trail to connect and interpret a minimum of twelve historic sites that were part of Steele's Bayou Expedition, which was one of Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant's attempts to approach and take Confederate held Vicksburg using the watercourses of Mississippi's Delta north of the city. The project will be completed as a cooperative effort of Mississippi's Lower Delta Partners and the Vicksburg National Military Park.	\$12,000	\$12,000	Lower Delta Partnership of 26 federal, state, local, and non-governmental organizations
Alternative Projects						
15	JAZZ	Create Index and Folio for Completed Oral Histories	Unknown	\$8,000	Unknown	Unknown
16	JELA	Protect the Barataria Preserve National Historic District: Completion of Cultural Resource Study	Unknown	\$25,000	Unknown	Unknown
17	NATC	Natchez Rhythm Club Fire Blues and Jazz Commemoration	Unknown	\$7,000	Unknown	Unknown



Those projects that did not receive funding and the reason for this are listed in Table 32.

Table 32: FY08 Requested Projects Not Funded

	Project	NPS Unit	Amount Requested	Reason Not Funded
1	French Language and Culture Re-acquisition Seminars	JELA	\$25,000	Project withdrawn by park; See "projects with matching fund component"
2	Oral History Documentation of Latin American Cultures in Southeast Louisiana, Post-1975	JELA	\$25,000	Project withdrawn by park

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2008.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2008.

Annual Meeting

The 2008 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: November 5th-6th, 2008

Location: Vicksburg National Military Park, Warren County, MS

The attendees on the annual meeting agenda included those in Table 33. Others not listed also attended.

Table 33: 2008 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Monika Mayr	Superintendent	VICK
Stacey Hester	Budget Analyst	SERO
Frank Miele	Historian	SERO
Paul Hartwig	Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science	SERO

A variety of topics were discussed at the 2008 annual meeting and include the following items:

- Discussion on the best location for LMDI program administration;
- LMDI budget;
- FY 2008 projects discussion and project status;
- FY 2009 prioritizing session (anticipate \$225,00 available to award);
- Presentation of projects; and
- Voting on projects.

There were not notes available to identify the meeting outcomes.



YEAR 15: 2009

Program Management

In 2009 multiple changes to leadership in LMDI units and at the Service level occurred.

- JELA: Carol Clark replaced David Luchsinger as superintendent
- NATR: Cam Sholly replaced Stennis Young as superintendent
- ULSG: Tim Good became the superintendent
- VICK: Superintendent Monika Mayr left for the Blue Ridge Parkway
- NPS: Director Mary Bomar retired and Jon Jarvis was appointed director

Program Activities

Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study (Section 1103)

In 2009 the U.S. Secretary of Transportation designated the Great River Road in Louisiana a National Scenic Byway (Federal Highway Administration, n.d.-a). The scenic byway begins at the Arkansas border and follows the west side of the Mississippi River south (Federal Highway Administration, n.d.-b). At the southwest corner of Mississippi, the road splits and continues south on both sides of the river continuing through Baton Rouge and New Orleans on the eastern side (Federal Highway Administration, n.d.-b). This occurrence fulfills Section 1103b3 of the legislation.

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2009 projects was \$230,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 34.

Table 34: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
VICK	1	\$25,000
CARI/NATC	1	\$19,500
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$16,100
SHIL	1	\$15,000

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 35.



Table 35: FY09 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project		Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	JAZZ	PMIS 146578-Establish Distance Learning Program	This project will bring the New Orleans Jazz NHP outreach program "Music for All Ages" to local city classrooms as well as across the state and be available to 81 school districts nationally.	Unknown	\$6,100	Schools Nationwide
2	JELA	PMIS 148695-Freedom's Journey in South Louisiana	The purpose of this project is to modify the Underground Railroad (UGRR) in South Louisiana interactive kiosk and the "Freedom Garden" interpretive brochure and programs presented at the River Road African American (RRAA) Museum.	Unknown	\$10,000	River Road African American Museum
3	CARI/NATC	PMIS 146713-Conduct SE Indian Basketry Conference	Conduct southeast American Indian basketry conference in Natchez, MS through a partnership including Cane River Creole NHP, Natchez NHP, Northwestern State University, the Grand Village of the Natchez (MS state park) and multiple Southeastern tribes. The conference will serve as the gathering place for tribes to encourage tribal dialogue on the conservation of baskets and basketry techniques.	Unknown	\$19,500	Cane River Creole NHP, Natchez NHP, Northwestern State University, the Grand Village of the Natchez (MS state park) and multiple Southeastern tribes
4	SHIL	PMIS 146587-Design and Construct Two Interpretive Wayside Exhibits at Davis Bridge Battlefield	In partnership with the Davis Bridge Memorial (DBM) Foundation and the Tennessee Wars Commission, Shiloh NMP would fund the planning, design, and construction of two interpretive wayside exhibits on the historic 4.7 acre Davis Bridge site, a component of the Siege and Battle of Corinth National Historic Landmark located within the core battlefield and preserved by the DBM Foundation as a public park.	Unknown	\$15,000	Davis Bridge Memorial Foundation and the Tennessee Wars Commission
5	VICK	PMIS 146543-Vicksburg Art	This project will provide for the creation and distribution of a four color brochure featuring the bronze reliefs, busts, statuary,	Unknown	\$25,000	Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau



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		Commemoration Brochure	stone sculptures and state monuments located in Vicksburg National Military Park and throughout the City of Vicksburg. In partnership with the Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, this project will highlight a different aspect of the battlefield - its artwork - to draw visitors of varied interests.			
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Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2009.

Marketing

There is no available information about program marketing in 2009.

Annual Meeting

The 2009 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: November 3rd-6th, 2009

Location: Natchitoches, LA

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting or the topics discussed at the meeting.



YEAR 16: 2010

Program Management

In 2010 another unit was added to the LMDI and two new superintendents were named.

- President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site was established
- GUIS: Jerry Eubanks retired and Daniel Brown took his place as superintendent
- VICK: Michael Madell filled the vacancy as superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2010 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 36.

Table 36: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
CARI	3	\$50,300
SHIL	3	\$38,000
FODO	2	\$30,000
ARPO	2	\$29,900
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$29,000
NATC	3	\$28,000
CHSC	2	\$20,800

Note. Does not include alternate projects

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 37. Table 37 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 37: FY10 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	Funded Amount	Partner
1	ARPO	PMIS 146597A - Creation and Development of T.E.N.T.	Arkansas State Parks invested in two trailers filled with camping and outdoor gear and 'program boxes' filled with items and materials interpreters could use to engage kids and families in outdoor exploration, learning and fun. They were called "TENTs" – Traveling Education Nature Trailers. This project is for the creation of TENT 3 – specifically for use in Arkansas's Delta Region. TENT 3 will provide a mobile center for learning and sharing of knowledge about the natural world; and to transport the opportunity for camping and outdoor experiences to diverse audiences in the state and national parks nearest them.	\$15,908	\$15,900	Arkansas State Parks, Association of State Park Systems
2	ARPO	PMIS 155924 – African Rhythms 2009	As part of its annual African American heritage event, the Museum of Discovery, a Smithsonian affiliate institution, accredited by the American Association of Museums, will present African Rhythms. The program is presented by Zinse Aggine (a native of Ghana) and the Hope Drum Ballet. The program will take place over three days in February, 2010 and this project will provide scholarships for more than 500 students from schools in the Arkansas Delta to participate.	\$14,050	\$14,000	Zinse Aggine and the Hope Drum Ballet, Museum of Discovery
3	CARI	PMIS 155948A - Archiving the Creole Language	This project will digitize extant recorded and videotaped Creole community meetings and individual oral interviews from fluent Creole speakers, language experts, archival specialists and cultural consultants, in accordance with international standards and best practice recommendations for linguistic documentation and archiving, house them in a secure repository at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and make them accessible to indigenous people, researchers, and interested laypersons worldwide.	\$20,200	\$20,200	Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University
4	CARI	PMIS 155882B - The Cultural State of	This project is a two-and-a-half day symposium to highlight and revisit the changing folk culture of the	\$19,500	\$19,500	Northwestern State University



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		the Delta, Revisited 2010	Louisiana-Mississippi Delta. The symposium will be held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana during August 2010. The symposium will bring together anthropologists, folklorists, linguists, geographers, musicologists and, most importantly, community members to discuss the culture of the Delta, past and present. The symposium will involve voices from multiple Delta communities, including American Indian, African American, Anglo-American, and Creole.			
5	CARI	PMIS 156459A - Special Emphasis Program: Music	This project will fund two special events that will inform visitors about the musical and literary contributions of the Cane River Region. The first event funded will be an author symposium featuring lectures and book signing. The second event is a musical festival that features musicians representing different genres of regional music.	\$19,000	\$10,600	
6	CHSC	PMIS 156270A - Central High School National Historic Site Youth Academy	The Youth Leadership Academy is a new initiative launched in 2009 that hopes to connect to the future generations of Little Rock, Arkansas, and the global community. Nine high school students will be selected to represent the Little Rock Central High National Historic Site as ambassadors.	\$10,000	\$10,000	
7	CHSC	PMIS 156288A - Central High School 53 rd Anniversary	In anticipation of the 53 rd anniversary of the Central High School desegregation crisis, the Little Rock Central High National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service, in collaboration with many of its partners will host a symposium like no other on Thursday, September 23, 2010 and Friday, September 24, 2010.	\$9,745	\$10,800	
8	FODO	PMIS 155997A - Interpretive Waysides for the Tennessee Civil War Trails	The waysides will be placed at various Civil War related sites in Stewart County that are not part of the National Battlefield.	\$15,800	\$11,800	Friends of the Fort Donelson Campaign
9	FODO	PMIS 155898A - Install Web Camera for Wildlife Viewing	Use new technologies for visitor enjoyment. Purchase and install one solar-powered, remote-controlled (pan, tilt, & zoom) web camera at the Bald Eagle nest located within the confederate Fort Donelson fortification.	\$29,200	\$18,200	TN State Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers



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10	JAZZ	PMIS 155903A – Create Music of the Lower Mississippi River Delta CD and Map	New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park employees Bruce Barnes and Matt Hampsey have been performing and researching African American musical styles from the Lower Mississippi River Delta for 10 years as this music is a significant part of the jazz story. We would now like to record an educational CD of music from the LMDR to use as an educational outreach tool for educators and as a sales item at NPS sites throughout the LMDI region.	\$25,000	\$25,000	
11	JELA	PMIS 155909A - Video Production of Acadian Food Ways	This program will document this specific food culture that is a historically significant aspect of Louisiana’s interconnected cultures. Through ubiquitous food customs, social gatherings, and survival techniques as the portal through which to explain the “Cajun” culture, audiences will get a sense of how the Acadians feel about family, work, their history and their future. It will also provide for an increased level of visitor understanding and knowledge regarding park themes of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve’s Acadian Cultural Centers.	\$25,000	\$4,000	Acadian Cultural Center
12	NATC	PMIS 155954A - Interpretive Updating at Longwood NHL	This project will expand, refine, and update the existing interpretation and guided tours at the Longwood Mansion in Natchez, Mississippi. This project seeks to include a broader history of the house and its significance, including more information on African American and architectural history and a broader and more updated interpretation of the site as a whole, including both the house and the grounds. Creation of a stand-alone educational tour for children is also planned.	\$25,000	\$15,000	
13	NATC	PMIS 155956A - Preservation Analysis of Oakes African American Cultural Center	The ultimate goal of this two-part project by the Oakes African American Cultural Center, operating under the auspices of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, is to install an external elevator. This system would be adjacent to the existing building or may be installed from ground level through the second-floor porch to allow visitors to access the second level of the historic house.	\$25,000	\$5,000	Yazoo County Fair and Civil League
14	NATC	PMIS 155959A - Natchez Literary and	This project will process, catalog, and preserve the archival records and scrapbooks created by 20+	\$10,500	\$8,000	Copiah-Lincoln Community College,



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		Cinema Celebration Archives	years of the award-winning Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration which annually highlights the literature and cinematic arts of the South.			Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting
15	SHIL	PMIS 155902A - Yocona Area Council – Pioneer Experience	An important goal of the new program, Pioneer Area, is to provide the participants the opportunity to experience local heritage first hand. This grant could be a vital improvement to [their] plans, as it would allow [them] to open up the program in its entirety. The grant will also concentrate our programs around teaching the heritage, culture, and natural resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Yocona Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
16	SHIL	PMIS 155907A - Brices Crossroads Cemetery Interpretive Kiosk	Visitors can tour the visitor center but the actual battlefield tour is self-guided. Significant areas of the battlefield are marked with interpretive signs but the cemetery does not have such a sign. The project would enable the Brices Crossroads Battlefield Commission to better interpret the cemetery's part in the battle. It would also provide the public with information regarding the soldiers who died in the battle and are buried in a mass grave at the site.	\$1,098	\$3,000	Brices Crossroads Battlefield Commission
17	SHIL	PMIS 155950A - Conduct Workshops with Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Mississippi	Introduce and foster awareness of cultural and natural resource preservation with underserved children between the ages of 9-12. Twenty-five children will be selected by the leaders of the Boys and Girls Club to participate in this in-depth park experience. Over a year time period, students will participate in a number of learning activities presented by park staff and/or subject matter experts. The lessons presented will include themes such as national parks, Lower Mississippi Delta themes, cultural resources, natural resources, stewardship and my role, Leave No Trace, and survival of the wilderness.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Mississippi
Alternative Projects						
18	CHSC	Making Connections and Empowering Young People		\$6,800		



Those projects that did not receive funding are listed in Table 38.

Table 38: FY10 Requested Projects Not Funded

	NPS Unit	Project	Amount Requested	Reason Not Funded
1	CHSC	Museum of Discovery Mobile Museum	\$13,800	Unknown

Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2010.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2010.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2010.



YEAR 17: 2011

Program Management

In 2011 the first superintendent at President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site was named.

- WICL: Laura Miller was named as the first superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2011 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 39.

Table 39: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	4	\$79,250
NATC	3	\$54,550
VICK	2	\$31,950
CHSC	2	\$28,800
CARI	1	\$17,000
SHIL	2	\$9,750
FODO	1	\$5,000

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 40.



Table 40: FY11 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	Funded Amount	Partner
	CARI	PMIS 167042A – Document and Conserve the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians in LA Language and Culture	Utilizing a focused process of oral history methods and dialect documentation, selected beliefs and customs, language components, and traditional cultural practices will be restored and preserved for future generations of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians in Louisiana.	\$16,500	\$17,000	Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
	NATC	PMIS 167062A – Colonial and Post-Colonial Ceramics of the Mississippi Delta	The symposium “Colonial and Post-Colonial Ceramics of the Mississippi Delta” will present new research on ceramics used by American Indians, Europeans, and African Americans in the Mississippi Delta Region.	\$20,000	\$20,000	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
	CHSC	PMIS 166969A – 9 to the Power of 10 – Magnifying the Contributions of the Little Rock Nine	Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site will engage with its surrounding community and positively impact the quality of life for its neighbors and for student volunteers by sponsoring nine service learning projects culminating in a single day of community engagement: Magnify the Power! One National Park + Nine Service Learning Projects in commemoration of the Little Rock Nine = Nine to the Power of Ten. This project will build upon the Voices of the Next Generation Service Learning Project the park held for the 2010 53rd Anniversary Commemoration.	\$13,300	\$13,300	Unknown
	CHSC	PMIS 167013A – My First Vote	This project is to create a short documentary about voting to coincide with CHSC’s 2015 commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The theme for the program in 2015 is Civil War to Civil Rights, and this documentary will be a key element to bridge the two eras of history and demonstrate the legacy of the Civil War.	\$15,500	\$15,500	University of Arkansas at Little Rock Communications Department
	FODO	PMIS 167003A – Stewart County	Purchase and install video monitor and associated utilities and equipment at the new	\$5,000	\$5,000	Stewart County Visitor Center



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		Visitor Center Video Monitor	Stewart County Visitor Center. Park staff will program BrightSign media and equipment to display information pertinent to park resources and themes. Monitor will have the capability to interface with the park's wildlife monitoring camera providing real-time viewing experiences of Bald Eagles nesting within the park along the Cumberland River.			
6	JAZZ	PMIS 167014A – Video Production of Songs from the Lower Mississippi River Delta	New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park employees Bruce Barnes, Matt Hampsey, and Reginald Galley will conduct and video interviews and field recordings of Mississippi River songs in order to create four professional quality video narratives. These video episodes will each stand alone as a 3-5 min interpretive piece but combine to tell the diverse story behind the music of the region. The episodes will include interviews, stories, and songs that connect the Mississippi River to the people who have worked and lived near its banks.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Unknown
7	JELA	PMIS 166993A – Traveling Exhibit: Latin Heritage in Southeast Louisiana	We propose a traveling exhibit on Latin heritage to highlight and celebrate our dynamic, changing Delta landscapes in southeast Louisiana. Oral histories with members of diverse Latin communities will be the springboard for a series of posters, printed on durable materials, and mounted for portability. These posters will contain photographs, stories and/or maps, and selections from oral histories, that showcase the rich diversity of Latin American heritage in Louisiana.	\$8,000	\$8,000	Louisiana State University
8	JELA	PMIS 167056A – Archive and Convert Folklife Research Materials	This project will increase and deepen the public's exposure worldwide to Louisiana's traditional cultures as well as make more primary research available to researchers and provide more materials to be used by Louisiana teachers. These collections (Northeast Louisiana Delta Project collection, Louisiana Voices Folklife in Education Project collection,	\$25,000	\$21,250	Louisiana Division of the Arts, Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism



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			New Populations Immigrant and Refugee Project collection, and the Louisiana Folklife Photograph collection) provide unique snapshots of Louisiana that do not exist in other collections and would not otherwise be available.			
9	JELA	PMIS 167066A – Develop 200 th Anniversary Plan for Battle of New Orleans	The Battle of New Orleans was the last major battle during the War of 1812 and the American victory that secured America’s independence from Great Britain. Commemorating and sharing this important event’s 200th anniversary with the public by providing many days of programs and events leading up to the January battle is a goal of the park and parish. This project is to hire a contractor to develop a well-coordinated and planned strategy, so that programs and activities complement each other and are not duplicated.	\$25,000	\$25,000	St. Bernard Parish
10	NATC	PMIS 167053A – Songs of the Civil War Music Program – Natchez NHP	Each year, the Natchez Festival of Music has presented a music program called “Songs of the South” for a week as part of the Natchez Spring Pilgrimage. This year, the Festival will develop a new event called “Songs of the Civil War.” Because music has always been such a vital universal expression, this program of songs will help create an understanding of the variety of sentiments and activities that led up to and took place during the Civil War and will include music that was important to various cultural groups.	\$9,550	\$9,550	Natchez Festival of Music
11	NATC	PMIS 167057A – Preservation of the Natchez Civil Rights film footage – Natchez NHP	This project will conduct a comprehensive inventory and preservation assessment of the Ed Pincus film collection, which comprises over 230 reels of film and audiotape. It will further acquire archival supplies and materials with which to permanently store the collection for maximum security and prolonged existence.	\$25,364.25	\$25,000	Amistad Research Center
12	SHIL	PMIS 184289A – Purchase and Install a Tennessee Civil	The LMDI monies will be used to purchase a sign for installation on the grounds of Shiloh United Methodist Church, an active	\$2,000	\$2,000	Shiloh United Methodist Church



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		War Trails Sign at Shiloh Church	congregation and in holding within Shiloh Battlefield. The Historic Shiloh Church gave its name to the famous Civil War battle, and its site is still critical to interpret the battle to Shiloh visitors.			
13	SHIL/VICK	PMIS 166837A – Conduct Teachers’ Workshop – The Relevancy of the Civil War to 21 st Century Students	Shiloh National Military Park, Vicksburg National Military Park, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, Mississippi State University (MSU) and MSU’s Mitchell Memorial Library will partner to conduct a week-long, residential in-service workshop for teachers. The theme of the workshop will be making the Civil War relevant to 21st century students.	\$15,500	\$15,500	Ulysses S. Grant Association, Mississippi State University, Mitchell Memorial Library
14	VICK	PMIS 166834A – Sponsor the Hobbs Freeman Celebration of Arts & Nature	The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation (SCHF) & the National Audubon Society’s Mississippi River Field Institute (MRFI) propose to organize & implement a year-long celebration of local nature-based art in honor and memory of a unique and much loved Vicksburg nature artist, Hobbs Freeman. This celebration will encompass the many aspects of the arts and the natural resources of the community with art workshops, naturalist seminars, contests, music, and exhibits leading up to a one-day festival that will explore the natural habitats of the Mississippi River region and the various ways to embrace the arts through the voices of nature.	\$24,400	\$24,200	Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation and the National Audubon Society’s Mississippi River Field Institute



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2011.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2011.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2011.



YEAR 18: 2012

Program Management

In 2012 there were multiple program management changes for LMDI.

- FODO: Brian McCutchen replaced Steven McCoy as superintendent
- FOSM: Superintendent William Black moved to Ozark National Scenic Riverways
- NATR: Superintendent Cam Sholly moved on and Dale Wilkerson assumed the acting superintendent role
- OZAR: William Black became superintendent
- SHIL: Superintendent Woody Harrell retired and Stacy Allen took on the acting superintendent role until John Bundy was named the superintendent
- SERO: Director David Vela moved on to become associate director for workforce, relevancy and inclusion in Washington D.C.

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 41.

Table 41: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	3	\$60,916
UGRR	2	\$45,039
CARI	1	\$24,920
NATC	1	\$23,375
CHSC	1	\$21,000
SHIL	1	\$12,000

Note. Does not include alternate projects

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 42. Table 42 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 42: FY12 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	CARI	PMIS 184968A – Conduct Tribal Workshop on Best Practices for Technology Transfer and Cultural Preservation	The Coushatta Tribe will organize and host a 2.5-day workshop for federally recognized tribes with Louisiana cultural affiliations to share information and technology transfer of best practices for tribal cultural preservation. The workshop will include guest speakers, hands-on demonstrations and group participation, as well as less formal social events. Workshop content will focus on best practices that the tribes have been using for oral history and language documentation, language revitalization, instruction in material cultural techniques, and archiving to ensure preservation for future generations.	\$24,920	\$24,920	Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
2	CHSC	PMIS 185803A – Our Collective Voices Memory Station	The Our Collective Voices project involves partnering with a local National Public Radio affiliate radio station, KUAR, and utilizing best practices developed by StoryCorp, to create a recording booth "memory station" in the NHS visitor center. A memory station will provide the opportunity to capture and share diverse perspectives and experiences regarding the Civil Rights Movement and ensure that every visitor know every person's story matters to the NPS.	\$21,000	\$21,000	Local affiliate NPS radio station, KUAR
3	JAZZ	PMIS 184600A – Music & Stories of the Civil War- One-Hour Documentary on Civil War music featuring LMDI Civil War sites	New Orleans Jazz NHP will create a one hour documentary on Civil War Music featuring LMDI Civil War sites. The footage and resulting film will meet technical specifications that are required by Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations. The documentary will interpret the history and stories from each Civil War site in the Lower Mississippi Delta through musical performance.	\$25,000	\$24,999	PBS stations to air documentary



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4	JAZZ	PMIS 184607A – “Standing in Tradition” Jazz Recording and Film Project	This LMDI project seeks funding to produce a live jazz recording (CD), DVD, and printed interviews of students from the park’s “Music for All Ages” program performing with professional jazz musicians.	\$25,000	\$10,918	The Neighborhood Story, Louisiana State Museum, Tulane University, The Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Organization, and the Historic New Orleans Collection
5	JELA	PMIS 184865A – JELA Create Music CD/DVD	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve will conduct interviews, field recordings, and record songs from Cajun Country in an educational CD entitled “Songs and Stories from Cajun Country.” This double CD set will include interviews, stories, and music that connect the working people of Louisiana’s Delta to their rich Cajun and Zydeco music traditions. The CD will include approximately 5 short interviews with video, 15-17 musical selections, and 1-2 monologues and/or Cajun humorous stories.	\$25,000	\$24,999	Unknown
6	NATC	PMIS 184609A – Tourism Assessment for Natchez Tour Homes	This project will assess the tourism product provided by the Natchez tour homes to help them succeed in the 21st century. It will also serve as a valuable source of information for all tour homes and historic house museums. Numerous partners will participate in the project, including the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and the Mississippi Department of Archives & History.	\$23,375	\$23,375	Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and the Mississippi Department of Archives & History
7	SHIL	PMIS 184284A – SHIL Reprint “Civil War in the Southeast” for use in teacher packets during the Civil War 150 th	Reprint the “Civil War in the Southeast” brochure for use in teacher packets during the Civil War sesquicentennial. Eight parks and six national heritage areas within the LMDI area are highlighted in this new SER folder, which not only tells the military story of the Civil War, but also deals with other important themes such as causes, beyond	\$12,000	\$12,000	Unknown



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			the battlefield, and from Civil War to Civil Rights. This project would provide funding for the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) to reprint this popular item so LMDI parks and partners could use it as a free publication in their educational programs during the second and third year of the sesquicentennial.			
8	UGRR	PMIS 184601A – Cultural Currents on the Lower Mississippi River: Vicksburg, Natchez, and New Orleans	This project will create a signature mobile interpretive display that depicts numerous themes relating to cultures along the Lower Mississippi River. These themes will focus on the cultural heritage created by the movement of people and goods along the Mississippi River. This mobile display will debut at the three signature parks, then be made available for temporary display at NPS unit sites, U.S. Fish & Wildlife refuges, and other public venues to help further develop cross promotion.	\$20,100	\$20,100	U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
9	UGRR	PMIS 190778A – Document/Preserve Mississippi’s Underground Railroad through “Paths to Slavery, Paths to Freedom”	The "Paths to Slavery, Paths to Freedom: Documenting Runaway Slaves in Mississippi, A Digital Humanities Project" will document, preserve, and educate the general public on Mississippi’s Underground Railroad. The University of Southern Mississippi History Department, an official partner of the NPS National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, will compile and digitize fugitive slave advertisements and notices published between 1790 and 1860.	\$24,939	\$24,939	University of Southern Mississippi History Department
Alternative Projects						
10		PMIS 194323 - Underground Railroad – Freedom Journey in S LA Program Enrichment		\$22,400		
11	CARI	PMIS 194334 – African American Cultural Historical Trails (Coop agreement		\$19,500		



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		with Cane River Heritage Area)				
12	NATR	PMIS 194209 – Mississippi Geographic Alliance ArcGIS Story Maps		\$15,000		
13	JELA	PMIS 194271 - Sharing the DELTA		\$10,000		



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2012.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2012.

Annual Meeting

The 2012 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: November 8th-9th, 2012

Location: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans, LA

The annual meeting attendees included those listed in Table 43.

Table 43: 2012 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Ed Woods	Superintendent (LMDI Co-Chair)	ARPO
Laura Gates	Superintendent	CARI
Brian McCutchen	Superintendent	FODO
Steven McCoy	Deputy Superintendent	GUIS
Josie Fernandez	Superintendent	HOSP
Carol Clark	Superintendent	JELA/JAZZ
Lance Hatten	Deputy Superintendent	JELA
Michael Madell	Superintendent	VICK
Dave Wyrick	Chief of Interpretation	NATC
Nancy Murray	Unknown	NATR
Christine Smith	Cultural Resource Specialist	NATR
Ashley Berry	Supervisory Park Ranger	SHIL
Laura Miller	Superintendent	WICL
Turkiya Lowe	Regional Program Manager, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program	SERO
Dan Scheidt	Chief, Cultural Resources Division	SERO

The annual meeting included discussions on multiple topics. The conversations and the outcomes are reviewed below.

Review of the LMDI Project Guidelines

The Board reviewed the guidelines for project acceptance and made updates after their review of projects. It was decided that travel costs would be charged to parks since LMDI does not have a ceiling for this.

FY2012 Projects and Status Reports

The LMDI parks with previous funding discussed the status of their FY12 projects and the accomplishments. Older projects from 2010 and 2011 were also reviewed and reports shared. The Board emphasized the need to complete status reports for all past projects.



Proposed Projects for FY2013 Discussion

Each park that had projects proposed for FY2013 presented information about the projects. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions and discussed each of the projects. Each park was asked to prioritize their own projects. Based on the conversations, two projects were not awarded funding: GUIS project number 194399A, a project on water bottle refill stations and recycling support, because it did not meet the guidelines and UGRR project number 194320, a project on the reenactment of the freedom summer of 1963, because there was not enough information and clear plans for the project. While considering the amount of funding for each remaining project, project number 194318A from SHIL was reduced by \$2500 to eliminate the food provided to attendees by the contractor using funds provided by the NPS. The Board reviewed each park's number one priority to ensure there were no objections to any of the projects. Upon agreement that all of the number one priority projects met the Board's approval, they agreed to suggest to the regional director that each park's number one priority be funded. The Board reviewed the other projects as well and chose four alternative options should any of the original options fall through.

Election of Vice Chairperson for Committee and Next Year's Meeting Site Selection

The Board chose to have the FY14 meeting in Natchez, MS in August 2013. Carol Clark, the superintendent at JELA, took on the chair of the Board position and Mike Madell, the superintendent of VICK, volunteered and was approved as the new co-chair.



YEAR 19: 2013

Program Management

In 2013 several changes to LMDI leadership at park units and at the region occurred.

- FOSM: Lisa Conard Frost filled the superintendent position
- JELA: Superintendent Carol Clark moved on and Lance Hatten took her place
- NATR: Mary Risser became the permanent superintendent
- SERO: Stan Austin was named director

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 44.

Table 44: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	3	\$54,326
CARI	3	\$33,597
SHIL	1	\$22,500
NATC	1	\$17,500
JACS	1	\$16,000
NATR	1	\$15,000
FODO	1	\$12,400
UGRR	1	\$10,000
ARPO	1	\$6,000
WICL	1	\$4,856

Note. JACS = Japanese American Confinement Sites

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 45.



Table 45: FY13 Funded Projects

NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner	
1	ARPO	PMIS 194288A – Partnership Support for the 150 th Commemoration of the Battle of Arkansas Post	This project request is submitted by the Grand Prairie Historical Society to support the partnership and provide funding for logistics (transportation shuttles, advertising, signing, firewood, straw, performers (band for period dance) and incidental expenses for the commemoration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the 1863 Battle of Arkansas Post. The project is a cooperative effort by the Society, Arkansas Post National Memorial, Arkansas Post State Museum, and both the Friends of Arkansas Post National Memorial and the Friends of Arkansas Post State Museum.	\$20,176	\$6,000	Grand Prairie Historical Society
2	CARI	PMIS 194352A – Complete Ethnography & Lexicon of Indo-Spanish Communities of Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes	This project involves documenting the culture descended from Colonial Spanish and Native American groups (Choctaw, Lipan, Caddo) who adapted to living with them in Natchitoches and Sabine Parishes of Louisiana. Deliverables for this project include: 1) an ethnographic overview of cultural maintenance and change; 2) documentation of rapidly dying Adaeseno dialect; 3) a lexicon of names, vocabulary and cultural information.	\$20,600	\$18,600	Unknown
3	CARI	PMIS 194322A – Workshop Series: Disaster Preparedness and Response for Collections Along the Delta	The workshop series “Disaster Preparedness and Response for Collections Along the Delta” is designed to target small museums, collections, and institutions in underappreciated areas in the Delta Region. The goal of these workshops is to provide information and assistance to public and private non-profit organizations such as museums, libraries, universities and colleges, historic homes, and others. A total	\$12,480	\$9,997.03	National Center for Preservation Technology and Training



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			of six workshops will be held in rural areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.			
4	CARI	PMIS 194398A – Present Music Related Outreach Programs in Natchitoches Parish Schools	This project will build upon the success of the Cane River Music Festival by bringing music based outreach programs to local schools. Approximately 500 third graders studying Louisiana history will be the target audience.	\$5,500	\$5,000	Rural title one schools on LA – specifically third grade teachers
5	FODO	PMIS 194620A – Commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation at Fort Donelson NB	Fort Donelson National Battlefield and National Cemetery seeks to commemorate the 150th anniversary and the legacy of the Emancipation Proclamation together with local communities, to explore its meanings, and to facilitate understanding of the proclamation and its relevance for modern America through a series of civic events and partnership opportunities. This project will engage youth audiences, formal school groups, military groups, and the general public with a variety of speaking events, performances, dramatic arts, and demonstrations.	\$12,400	\$12,400	Kentucky Humanities Council, local library
6	JACS	PMIS 194344A – Arkansas Arts Center Japanese American relocation exhibits	These two exhibits explore the Japanese American relocation during World War II a period in U.S. history that is often overlooked but none-the-less is an integral part of Arkansas heritage.	\$19,768	\$16,000	Arkansas Studies Institute, The Butler Center, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, and the Windgate Foundation
7	JAZZ	PMIS 194261A – Preparing Future Leaders: High School-Level Civil War to Civil Rights Immersion Curriculum and Social Media Applications	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in partnership with New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park and Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, proposes to lead an effort to connect high school students to Civil War and Civil Rights sites through an educational immersion experience.	\$24,960	\$6,500	Multiple National Park sites, Orleans and St. Bernard Parish schools, the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Little Rock Central High School, the Plessy and Ferguson Foundation and the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation
8	JELA	PMIS 194168A – Produce JELA BioBlitz Biodiversity Festival	The NPS and National Geographic partner annually to produce BioBlitz, a 24-hour event during which scientists, families, students,	\$24,960	\$24,026.44	National Geographic



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			<p>teachers, and community members find and identify as many species of organisms as possible. BioBlitzes and their Biodiversity Festivals attract national media attention and are attended by thousands of people. A different NPS site is chosen each year; the 2013 BioBlitz site will be JELA. The event, scheduled for May 17-18, has two goals: 1) to provide ecological and scientific “discovery moments” for the public; 2) to conduct a scientifically credible inventory of JELA’s biota with a focus on invertebrates and on the topographic/hydrological gradient of habitats.</p>			
9	JELA	PMIS 194423A – Louisiana Creole Songs & Stories	<p>New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park employees Bruce Barnes, Matt Hampsey, and Prudence Grissom (historian) will work with Louisiana Creole musicians, folklorists, storytellers, and Cane River Creole NHP to preserve and promote the endangered Louisiana Creole language through recorded folk music, parables, and storytelling in an educational CD with accompanying Creole language lesson. The project would include oral history interviews, and storytelling from throughout Louisiana with input from Cane River Creole NHP, Northwestern State University, and the LA Creole Association.</p>	\$25,000	\$23,800	Northwestern State University, the LA Creole Association
10	NATC	PMIS 194401A – Civil War to Civil Rights Touchscreen Experience Hardware and Software Budget	<p>The Natchez National Historical Park is requesting grant funds to expand its Civil War to Civil Rights Touchscreen Experience. With additional grant monies, the park will be able to install a self-standing kiosk at the Natchez Visitor’s Center. Additional information made available on the kiosk will include the Civil War experience for the families (both free and enslaved) who occupied the Melrose estate, the William Johnson House (home to an important free family of color), as well as the residents of</p>	\$17,500	\$17,500	Unknown



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			neighboring estates, and the City of Natchez.			
11	NATR	PMIS 194213A – Brice’s Crossroads Battlefield – Chief Tishomingo Scenic Byway Four Corners Obelisk	The committee intends to construct an upright obelisk and three interpretive signs that will interpret the importance of the boundaries of four counties joining at this location. This project will improve heritage tourism by enhancing the visitor’s experience when touring the battlefield and when driving the scenic byway.	\$15,600	\$15,000	Brice’s Crossroads Battlefield-Chief Tishomingo Scenic Byway
12	SHIL	PMIS 194319A – Corinth Contraband Camp Symposium: Road to Freedom: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship	This project is a two-and-a-half day symposium highlighting the African American experience during the Civil War with special emphasis on the experience of former enslaved people seeking freedom in Corinth, Mississippi. The symposium will focus on the emancipation and first steps of freedom for inhabitants of the Corinth Contraband Camp. The symposium is a partnership with the Ulysses S. Grant Association’s Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the National Park Service.	\$25,000	\$22,500	Ulysses S. Grant Association’s Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
13	UGRR	PMIS 194319A – Documenting Runaway Slaves in Mississippi	The Documenting Runaway Slaves in Mississippi (DRSM) project has transcribed over 3000 runaway slave advertisements. Based on the number of newspapers we have examined versus the number that have not been explored, we estimate that this represents between one-third and one-half of the total number of runaway slave advertisements that can be found in the state’s newspapers. Additional funding would enable this project to proceed and possibly become the largest repository of slave advertisements.	\$10,400	\$10,000	University of Southern Mississippi
14	WICL	PMIS 194325A – WICL 2013 – Hope Jazz Fest	The 2013 Hope Jazz Fest is a partnership project between the National Park Service, the University of Arkansas Community	\$8,840	\$4,855.75	University of Arkansas Community College at



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			College at Hope, and the Jazz & Democracy Project (J&D). The festival will promote tourism to Hope from the greater regional area and will foster education about the culture and heritage of Jazz.			Hope, and the Jazz & Democracy Project (J&D)
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Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2013.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2013.

Annual Meeting

The 2013 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: August 2013

Location: Natchez, MS

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting or the discussion at the meeting.



YEAR 20: 2014

Program Management

In 2014 a few changes to LMDI leadership at the park unit level occurred.

- PERI: Superintendent John Scott retired
- SHIL: Superintendent John Bundy moved on and Tyrone Brandyburg and Lisa Garrett served as acting superintendents
- WICL: Superintendent Laura Miller moved on and Taronia Armstrong was named superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 46.

Table 46: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
CARI	1	\$24,785
FODO	2	\$28,704
GUIS	1	\$23,835
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$39,725
NATC	2	\$21,357
NATR	1	\$15,000
SERO	1	\$18,220
VICK	1	\$20,000
WICL	1	\$16,994

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 47. Table 47 also includes those projects listed as alternates, if one of the primary projects fell through or did not spend the entire funding amount.



Table 47: FY14 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	CARI	PMIS 203552A – Complete Traditional Cultural Property Documentation, Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb	Section 1107 of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative includes programs for the research, interpretation, and preservation of significant historical and archaeological resources in the Delta Region. This project is an integral part of that effort for an under-represented cultural group that has occupied the area since the early 18th century. This project also documents the Choctaw-Apache history connected with known historic sites including Fort St. Jean Baptiste and the Presidio de Nuestra Senora del Pilar de Los Adaes, which heretofore have not included this Indian culture in interpretation.	\$24,785	\$24,785	Choctaw-Apache Community
2	FODO	PMIS 203582A – Partnership Commemorating the 150 th Anniversary of the 1864 Johnsonville (TN) Campaign	This project would help FODO communicate to visitors of all ages that this unique site has a rich history that goes beyond the February, 1862, Battle of Fort Henry and the subsequent Union occupation. This would strengthen FODO’s increasing public outreach in that area. It would include research, design, and fabrication of at least three static wayside exhibit panels.	\$12,552.80	\$12,065.75	Johnsonville State Historic Park
3	FODO	PMIS 213351A – LMDI Reprint and Repress Unique CD/DVD Package, A Civil War Driving Tour The Tennessee River	This project would fund the reprint of a most unique interpretation and education tool that would allow visitors to understand why the unique areas along the Tennessee River are compelling and worthy to visit, and would allow local residents, too, to learn more about their homes and communities and the unique cultural and natural resources in their backyards, encouraging them to be better	\$16,000	\$16,638.51	Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, the Renaissance Center of Dickson, Tennessee, and multiple Chambers of Commerce in the area, including the Henry County (TN) Chamber of Commerce



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			stewards of these lands, resources, and stories.			
4	GUIS	PMIS 203667A – Celebrate Native Guards at West Ship Island, Mississippi	The project will provide seed monies for an annual 3-day event to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States, their involvement in the Civil War, and role in America’s military history. The 3-day event will feature a Civil War encampment at Fort Massachusetts, invited speakers, and living history programs featuring authentic era food.	\$24,960	\$23,835.13	Local schools and teachers
5	JAZZ	PMIS 203584A – Score for American Unity: An Original Composition Commemorating the Battle of New Orleans	In cooperation with the Louisiana Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Louisiana State Museum, and other partners, JAZZ will commission and present a musical commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans bicentennial.	\$26,000	\$25,000	Louisiana Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Louisiana State Museum, and other partners
6	JELA	PMIS 203580A – Celebrating Prairie Acadian Food and Music	The food and music of the prairie Acadians demonstrates their ingenuity, creativity, and adaptability and is a crucial component in PACC interpretive programming. This project will expand programming to Fridays which will allow more visitors to actively participate in culture preservation, encourage healthier food choices by demonstrating how local foods are used creatively, and expand the ongoing partnership with the City of Eunice.	\$15,308.80	\$14,724.61	Prairie Acadian Cultural Center, City of Eunice (LA)
7	NATC	PMIS 203520A – Purchase Pull-Up Banners for Natchez Tricentennial	This project will purchase 35 small pull-up style, self-standing cloth banners (36x72") and five larger banners (8'x6') promoting the Natchez Tricentennial coming in 2016. The banners will be placed in strategic locations along interstate highways and scenic byways in all entry stations/visitor centers to the state as well as at airports,	\$13,166.40	\$12,312.50	City of Natchez



			in hotel lobbies, and other high traffic areas throughout the region. Special concentration will be placed on cities along the entire Natchez Trace Parkway. The large banners will be used at conventions and meetings by Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Natchez National Historical Park, and other community organizations.			
8	NATC	PMIS 203585A – Driving Tour for Civil War Sites in Natchez	Based on the Natchez-area Civil War research of NATC historian Jeff Mansell, this project will create a driving tour of local Civil War-related sites that will be made available to the public free of charge via websites and hard-copy brochures.	\$12,355.20	\$9,044.75	Unknown
9	NATR	PMIS 194209A – Mississippi Geographic Alliance ArcGIS Story Maps	The story maps will focus on the Old Natchez Trace and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Story maps will include historical events and uses, historic communities, geological features affecting land use, and current community use. The project would involve high school teachers and students from communities adjacent to the Natchez Trace Parkway. It will focus on the historical connection between the peoples and the uses of the Trace routes with the purpose being to increase students' understanding of their heritage as well as provide training in contemporary mapping skills.	\$16,224	\$15,000	Mississippi Geographic Alliance (University of Mississippi)
10	SERO	PMIS 203589A – Teach At-Risk and Underserved Youth Populations Resilience via Music & Drama	This program will use music, dance, and drama to teach 'resilience' to at-risk and under-served youth populations in the LMDR, as well as attract them to NPS sites in the LMDR. 'Music is Spirit' will utilize African American spirituals to assist those who are battling with adversity in their lives, and engage them in historical role plays and skits which demonstrate	\$18,948.80	\$18,220	Community-based organizations in the LMDR



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			how previous generations overcame their problems through nonviolent means.			
11	VICK	PMIS 203557A – Sponsor Musical Educational Outreach Program & Concert	The Four Seasons of the Arts, operated through the Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce Community Fund, Inc., and the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign propose to partner to organize and implement an educational program and public concert with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.	\$20,800	\$20,000	Four Seasons of the Arts, operated through the Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce Community Fund, Inc., Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign
12	WICL	PMIS 203553A – Hope for Humanity Film Festival	The Hope For Humanity Film Festival will be an engaging, high quality film festival that sparks a flame of creativity and growth for residents of Hope and the surrounding community. Therefore it will increase visitation within the community to the historic site by promoting heritage tourism and bring awareness of local civic and social issues in the community.	\$17,680	\$16,994.45	University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, Little Rock Film Festival



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2014.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2014.

Annual Meeting

No information related to the annual meeting was available for 2014.



YEAR 21: 2015

Program Management

In 2015 multiple leadership changes occurred at LMDI park units.

- CARI: Superintendent Laura Gates retired in December 2015 and Superintendent Carrie Mardorf assumed her role in September 2016
- JEFF: Michael Ward replaced Tom Bradley as superintendent
- OZAR: Bill Black retired and Larry Johnson was named superintendent
- SHIL: Dale Wilkerson was named superintendent
- VICK: Superintendent Michael Madell moved to Acadia National Park and William Justice was named superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2015 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 48.

Table 48: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	4	\$69,678
CARI	3	\$54,703
VICK	1	\$25,000
CHSC	1	\$16,000
HOSP	1	\$10,000
UGRR	1	\$8,062
SHIL	1	\$4,900
WICL	1	\$4,255

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 49.



Table 49: FY15 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	CARI	PMIS 213024A – Implement Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Cultural Programs for Tribe and Visitors	In this project, the Language & Culture Revitalization Program of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe proposes to complete three projects: 1) create a brochure to provide information on the Tunica-Biloxi Museum to enhance visitation; 2) create a revised, updated edition of "The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe: Its Culture and People" originally published by the Tribe in 1987 and now rare and out of print; and 3) conduct a series of 4 monthly workshops on traditional Tunica-Biloxi crafts and sport.	\$24,778	\$24,778	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
2	CARI	PMIS 213300A – Highlight Delta Culture at 36 th Annual NSU Folklife Festival	This request is to provide financial support to the Northwestern State University Annual Folklife Festival by funding the following aspects of the festival: Delta craftspersons and demonstrators; scholars, cultural authorities and musicians for narrative sessions and musical informances; five traditional Delta music groups for performances; Easter Rock observance and interpretation by folklorist; demonstrations of other Delta traditions; children's cultural/educational programs; and videography of events for YouTube, NPS, and Folklife Center uploads.	\$9,975	\$9,975	Northwestern State University
3	CARI	PMIS 213373A – Design and Print Brochure for the New Poverty Point World Heritage Site	Funding is requested to design & print an interpretive brochure for the newly-designated Poverty Point World Heritage Site. The brochure will be re-designed from an existing brochure that was created for distribution at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting. The emphasis of the brochure will be changed from promoting the eligibility of Poverty Point for the World Heritage List to focusing on information needed to inform visitors.	\$26,000	\$19,950	State of Louisiana



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4	CHSC	PMIS 203569A – Susan Paulsen: Exhibit on Wilmot, Arkansas	The Susan Paulsen exhibit will portray Wilmot's heritage and attract visitors from the urban center of the state to explore the areas of the lesser known Delta Region.	\$16,640	\$16,000	Arkansas Arts Center
5	HOSP	PMIS 213393A – Hot Springs Blues Festival	The Hot Springs Blues Festival will host its 19th annual event in August 2015. The festival has grown from a one day music festival held on the back of a flatbed trailer in a field to a three-day event at Hill Wheatley Plaza in downtown Hot Springs.	\$10,400	\$10,000	Spa City Blues Society
6	JAZZ	PMIS 213414A – A Celebration of Creole and Cajun Music	New Orleans Jazz NHP Park Rangers Matt Hampsey and Bruce Barnes will travel with four other Louisiana based musicians to two NPS sites, Cane River Creole NHP and the Liberty Theatre, a unit of Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve's Prairie Acadian Cultural Center, to deliver an educational performance detailing the history, geographic proximity, similarities, and differences between Cajun music and Creole music and the people that created these musical styles unique to the Lower Mississippi Delta. In addition to the two concerts there will be two music videos produced of historic songs from the award winning Songs From the Lower Mississippi Delta CD.	\$10,400	\$10,000.45	Unknown
7	JAZZ	PMIS 213422A – Score for Unity: Presenting Original Musical Performances Honoring the Battle of New Orleans	The project funding request will support multiple public performances and interpretive compact disc products that build upon the 2014 Score for Unity project. In cooperation with many local partners, JAZZ is commissioning an original music composition that details the arc of the Battle.	\$16,640	\$9,678.01	Many local partners
8	JELA	PMIS 203564A – Interpreting the African American Experience at Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery	This project will document African American associations with the site in order to: promote multicultural tourism, develop interpretive tools that provide a deeper understanding of the African American experience at the site, and enhance and expand the visitor experience at the park.	\$27,040	\$25,000	Unknown



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9	JELA	PMIS 203575A – Living in a War Zone: Civilians, Troops, and the Battle of New Orleans	JELA's Chalmette Battlefield, site of the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815, will commemorate the 2015 bicentennial with special programs at the January 2015 battle anniversary event.	\$27,040	\$25,000	Unknown
10	SHIL	PMIS 213301A – Conduct Teachers' Workshop – It's Not Just a Field Trip	Shiloh National Military Park and the Corinth School District will partner to conduct a two day workshop for teachers during the summer of 2015. "It's Not Just a Field Trip," will enable educators to develop meaningful educational trips for their students.	\$5,096	\$4,900	Corinth School District
11	UGRR	PMIS 213485A – Produce Brochure on Underground Railroad Activity in Northwest Louisiana	This project will produce a full color, tri-fold brochure that will tell multiple stories of slave escapes from Natchitoches Parish, Los Adaes, and Nacogdoches. This brochure will shed new light on the story of resistance to the institution of slavery across the international borders of France and Mexico, Louisiana, and Texas.	\$11,741.19	\$8,062.36	Cane River National Heritage Area, CARI, Los Adaes State Park, the Natchitoches Tourism Commission
12	VICK	PMIS 213237A – Develop Heritage Walking Trail Network	The Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce's Community Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) community non-profit will partner with the City of Vicksburg, Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Vicksburg Main Street to develop a series of five walking trails that will traverse the city's downtown area, historic districts, and surrounding neighborhoods. The trails project will benefit tourists and local residents as it will provide a health and fitness opportunity while also providing heritage walking tours that encompass Vicksburg's rich and diverse culture, architecture, and history.	\$26,000	\$25,000	Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce's Community Fund, Inc., the City of Vicksburg, Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau (VCVB) and Vicksburg Main Street
13	WICL	PMIS 213325A – Fourth Annual Hope for Humanity Film Festival	The Hope for Humanity Film Festival is an engaging, high quality festival that will increase visitation from within the community, as well as the surrounding region. Film festivals are becoming increasingly popular and the NPS partners with the Little Rock Film Festival to	\$8,840	\$4,255	University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH), the Little Rock Film Festival, and Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN)



			share resources and to provide critical technical expertise.			
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Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2015.

Program Marketing

By 2015, the Board no longer had a member capable of updating the HTML code in the previous webpage. The LMDI website needed updates so late 2015 the Board determined that due to the age of the site and the advance in technology since it was first published a new site was needed. At that time Ashley Berry (SHIL) and Ashley Baggett (FODO) volunteered to create a new webpage using the content management system.

Annual Meeting

The 2015 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: August 12th-13th, 2015

Location: New Orleans, LA

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting.

A variety of topics were discussed at the 2015 annual meeting and include the following items:

- A priority project list based on predicted funding level of \$225,081 was developed;
- The Board reviewed and approved, subject to regional approval, changes to the Guidelines for Prioritization and Standard Operating Procedures for the program, and confirmed revisions to the Charter and Bylaws, consistent with changes made in 2015; and
- Ashley Baggett (FODO) and Ashley Berry (SHIL) volunteered to coordinate efforts to create a new webpage for LMDI in the content management system.

There were not notes available to identify the meeting outcomes.



YEAR 22: 2016

Program Management

In 2016 the opening at Cane River Creole National Historical Park was filled.

- CARI: Carrie Mardorf was named superintendent

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2016 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 50.

Table 50: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$47,998
HOSP	1	\$30,657
BUFF	1	\$26,692
SERO	1	\$24,998
NATC	1	\$23,724
CARI	1	\$22,838
GUIS	1	\$19,616
SHIL	1	\$11,500
FODO	1	\$11,088
WICL	1	\$3,978

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 51.



Table 51: FY16 Funded Projects

NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner	
1	BUFF	PMIS 223804A – Celebrate Ozark Culture at Buffalo River Folklife Festival	Funding will be used to support Ozark Folklife Festival in Searcy County, Arkansas. The festival will serve to promote heritage tourism in north Arkansas, and to fortify the existing partnerships between the National Park Service, the Searcy County Chamber of Commerce, the Buffalo National River Partners, and the Arkansas Master Naturalists.	\$21,450	\$26,692.21	Searcy County Chamber of Commerce
2	CARI	PMIS 224058A – Create Traveling Exhibit on Slavery	This project will fund the fabrication of a travelling exhibition of a downsized version of an exhibition "Purchased Lives: The American Slave Trade from 1808-1865." The preparation of this travelling panel exhibit will provide well-researched interpretation of this time period, and allow that interpretation to be shared at small venues such as Cane River Creole National Historical Park and other sites directly connect to this history. The exhibit will bring residents of the Delta - an area shaped by slavery and its legacies - on a journey that examines the meaning of the trade from the perspectives of traders and the millions of the enslaved who found themselves at the mercy of the antebellum slave market.	\$24,000	\$22,838	Historic New Orleans Collection
3	FODO	PMIS 223864A – Commemorating the Transition to Freedom: An Evening with the Fisk Jubilee Singers	This project would allow Fort Donelson National Battlefield to invite local communities in commemorating, through song and story, a most important period in American history, following the Civil War, when many African Americans were making an important transition from the "peculiar institution" of slavery into freedom. This project has the potential to grow and enhance many	\$11,531.52	\$11,088	Fisk University, Krider Performing Arts Center, Henry County High School



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			partnerships, and help the park, and the NPS, integrate itself more into local communities.			
4	GUIS	PMIS 223955A – NPS Night at the Ballpark	NPS Night at the Biloxi Shuckers MGM minor league ball park will celebrate the centennial of the NPS in 2016. This project will complement the "Shuckers in the Community" public outreach program and engage park staff with the coastal MS communities. This project meets the LMDI goals of increasing heritage tourism and enhancing visitor understanding.	\$20,592	\$19,615.61	Biloxi Shuckers MGM minor league ballpark
5	HOSP	PMIS 223232A – Garland County Historical Society – record digitization and database project	This project aims to digitize 25,000 images, including photographs, documents, maps, film (negatives and slides), and audio tapes. These records will be saved in a searchable database called PastPerfect.	\$26,000	\$30,657.48	Garland County Historical Society
6	JAZZ	PMIS 223956A – Connecting With the Caribbean	The program will bring musicians from Guadeloupe and Martinique to Louisiana for a two-week residency focused on linguistic and musical connections. The musicians will perform free concerts at the Liberty Theater in Eunice in partnership with JAZZ's Prairie Acadian Cultural Center, at the Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans in partnership with JAZZ, at CARI in Natchitoches, and at a venue chosen by GUIS. The concerts will promote heritage tourism and provide those attending with a new understanding of musical connections both historical and contemporary.	\$26,000	\$25,000	Office of Cultural Affairs for the Consulate General of France and CODOFIL (Council for the Development of French in Louisiana)
7	JELA	PMIS 223834A – Partner with Experience Louisiana Folklife Festival	The Experience Louisiana Festival would bring Eunice (LA) national and international media attention and provide exposure and opportunities for local musicians and creators of traditional crafts, many of whom depend on folklife demonstrations for income. The success of the festival and its participants would also encourage area young people to learn traditional music, crafts, and foodways by reconnecting them with their heritage and	\$33,485.09	\$22,997.71	City of Eunice, the Eunice Rotary Club, St. Landry Tourist Commission, Louisiana State University, and the Louisiana Crafts Guild



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			showing them that traditional activities have a place in the modern world.			
8	NATC	PMIS 233502A – Natchez Indian Exhibit for Grand Village of Natchez Indians	This project will replace the current reproduction Nahchee hut exhibit that sits near the mound group at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians (GVNI) using a majority of modern materials (steel, hardie board, steel mesh, concrete, thatch) in conjunction with natural materials (black locust wood, dirt, thatch) to ensure a lengthy lifespan while keeping the aesthetic design and feel of the original structures.	\$24,000	\$23,724	Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Natchez Convention and Business Bureau, the Natchez Tricentennial Commission
9	SERO	PMIS 223779A – Host Preservation Summit at the Isaiah T. Montgomery House in Mound Bayou, MS	The primary focus of the Summit will be the development of a comprehensive plan for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Isaiah T. Montgomery House. This restored National Historic Landmark will serve as a catalyst for Mound Bayou's cultural heritage tourism program. The goal of the Preservation Summit is to position Mound Bayou to become an active participant and beneficiary of the thriving heritage tourism economy of the Mississippi Delta.	\$36,397.09	\$24,998	Mississippi Heritage Trust, Knights and Daughters of Tabor
10	SHIL	PMIS 224006A – Corinth Grand Illumination	The Corinth Grand Illumination will be held to promote heritage tourism in Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi, and strengthen the existing partnerships between the National Park Service, the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, the Corinth Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Main Street Corinth, as well as many local civic clubs, organizations, the downtown business district, and area public schools.	\$11,960	\$11,500	Corinth Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Main Street Corinth, and the City of Corinth
11	WICL	PMIS 182549A – Hope is on the Move	The "Hope is on the Move" program will challenge a diverse community of people—including children and their families—to engage in activities that will get them moving, help them develop healthier lifestyles, and enable them to explore history through biking and walking. The park will partner with the	\$5,200	\$3,978.20	Clinton Foundation, local schools, the local community college (with its nursing program), the city (Hope) parks department, and other partners



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			Clinton Foundation, local schools, the local community college (with its nursing program), the city parks department, and other partners to engage a broad spectrum of the community.			
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Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2016.

Program Marketing

By 2016, Ashley Berry (SHIL) and Ashley Baggett (FODO) were busy working on the new webpage using the content management system. They were able to secure an intern to help with the work. The LMDI website development team worked with the National Web Council to develop the new webpage. They chose a location-based design which allowed for content from the parks to be sourced to the LMDI page.

Annual Meeting

The 2016 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: July 20th-21st, 2016

Location: Hot Springs, AR

There was no available information regarding the attendees to the meeting.

A variety of topics were discussed at the 2016 annual meeting and include the following items:

- A priority project list was developed based on the predicted funding level of \$225,081;
- Brian McCutchen became chair of the board for 2017-2018 year and Tarona Armstrong, Superintendent of WICL, was elected vice-chair; and
- Ashley Baggett (FODO) and Ashley Berry (SHIL) presented an update on a new place-based website for the LMDI which was set to launch in 2017.

There were not notes available to identify the meeting outcomes.



YEAR 23: 2017

Program Management

In 2017 changes at LMDI units and at the Park Service level occurred.

- ARPO: Karen Bradford was named superintendent
- BUFF: Superintendent Kevin Cheri retired
- JELA: Superintendent Lance Hatten moved on
- NPS: Director Jon Jarvis retired and Michael Reynolds became acting director

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2017 projects was \$225,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 52.

Table 52: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
JELA/JAZZ	2	\$37,699
BUFF	2	\$36,500
CARI	2	\$34,700
HOSP	3	\$25,600
SERO	1	\$25,000
SHIL	1	\$12,000
CHSC	1	\$9,482
NATC	2	\$8,029

The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 53.



Table 53: FY17 Funded Projects

NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner	
1	BUFF	PMIS 233826A – Buffalo River Heritage Festival	The one-day festival will highlight the tradition of music and story telling that is unique to the Ozark region, and will celebrate the artists and traditional artisans of the region. The festival will serve to promote heritage tourism in northwest Arkansas, and to cultivate partnerships with the Buffalo Theater Board, the local schools, and local businesses and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.	\$17,1600	\$16,500	Buffalo Theater Board, local schools and businesses, Newton County Chamber of Commerce
2	BUFF	PMIS 233866A – Promoting Cultural Heritage Through Song	This project will promote the cultural heritage and history, stewardship of the river, and increase knowledge of Ozark mountain music tradition. The products that result from this project will support the LMDI goals 1 and 4.	\$20,800	\$20,000	Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)
3	CARI	PMIS 233276A – Highlighting Delta Culture at the 38 th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival	The primary outcome sought is that the Folk Festival audience will experience and be educated about the diversity and richness of Delta culture. The Festival will provide a venue for the general public and researchers to encounter voices, traditions, material culture, and music from several of the folk communities of the Delta, including American Indian, Anglo-American, African-American, and Creole. Delta Initiative funding will help the Festival highlight the music, crafts, foods, people, and traditions of Delta culture.	\$17,888	\$17,200	Louisiana Folklife Center, Northwestern State University
4	CARI	PMIS 233453A – Conduct Mississippi River Delta Archeological Assessment & Mitigation	The proposed research provides critical environmental impact prediction, assessment, database development, management planning, remediation, and alternative mitigation of endangered cultural resources associated with the human environment of the Mississippi River Delta.	\$18,200	\$17,500	National Center for Preservation Technology and Training



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5	CHSC	PMIS 233904A – Delta Express to Equality	The Delta Express to Equality Heritage Tours is a chartered bus field trip series exploring the power of and threats to American citizenship protections by visiting LMDI sites connected to the Trail of Tears, Underground Railroad, Japanese American Internment Camps, and African American Civil Rights Movement. Each Delta Express trip will begin at Central High National Historic Site and visit Arkansas Post National Memorial, and the Rohwer Internment Camp National Historic Landmark, highlighting additional sites/markers in route.	\$13,546.40	\$9,482.17	ARPO, Rohwer Internment Camp National Historic Landmark
6	HOSP	PMIS 233571A – Jazz Appreciation – Architects of Jazz	Jazz Appreciation Month’s Architects of Jazz and Jazz in the Classroom events and activities are aligned with the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative that 1) Result directly in increased heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region through audience and community engagement, marketing, advertising and public relations; and 2) Add to the knowledge base concerning a cultural, natural, or recreational resource or provides useful contextual information for a resource by connecting Arkansas Delta schools and the communities with information for use and useful information.	\$9,360	\$9,000	The Alex Foundation
7	HOSP	PMIS 233573A – SE Arkansas Literary Arts Program	The literary arts program would be beneficial to the community because it would be culturally enriching and educationally engaging. The community, as well as students from schools in the Southeast Arkansas Region, would be exposed to authors, publishers, and writers who they perhaps would not otherwise see in person.	\$13,728	\$6,600	Monticello Branch Library
8	HOSP	PMIS 233682A – Cutwell 4 Kids Workshop	The project will contact community leaders, artists, and visionaries; people who want to empower their communities in the Delta area by using art to motivate their culture and	\$10,400	\$10,000	Cutwell 4 Kids



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			increase involvement in their communities, and invite them to an overnight workshop.			
9	JAZZ	PMIS 234042A – Celebrating New Orleans at 300	This project will mark the tricentennial of New Orleans in 2018 with 10 new jazz compositions that interpret 10 storylines associated with 300 years of New Orleans history. JAZZ will commission 10 new jazz compositions to be part of WWNO’s series TriPod: New Orleans at 300. Each song will move beyond the familiar themes of New Orleans history to focus on forgotten, neglected, or surprising pieces of the city’s past, and to enrich understanding of its present and future.	\$26,000	\$25,000	Office of Cultural Affairs for the Consulate General of France and New Orleans public radio station WWNO-FM
10	JELA	PMIS 234004A – Middle Passage Historical Marker Project	The Middle Passage historical marker project will commemorate the 2 to 6 million Africans who perished and the 10 million who survived The Middle Passage of the transatlantic slave trade.	\$21,840	\$12,699.40	Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc.
11	NATC	PMIS 234009A – Brice’s Crossroads Battlefield/Four Corners - Create Two Interpretive Brochures and Build and Install Message Board with Brochure Holder	The purpose of this component of the project is to produce brochures for Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield/Chief Tishomingo Scenic Byway and Four Corners Interpretive site. In addition, a brochure holder will be built and installed at the Four Corners site.	\$4,358.64	\$4,037	Brice’s Crossroads National Battlefield Commission
12	NATC	PMIS 234009B – Brice’s Crossroads Battlefield/Four Corners - Fund Two Student Internships	This project will allow Brice’s Crossroads to hire two student interns and foster their interest in history, historic preservation and interpretation. Interns would have the opportunity to learn how to present programs, plan events and prepare interpretation of items to be used in programs. The project will connect students to resources in their "back yard" and create advocates for historic preservation.	\$3,993.60	\$3,992	Brice’s Crossroads National Battlefield Commission
13	SERO	PMIS 233827A – Develop Educational Outreach Program Materials history of the Isaiah T.	This project will develop educational outreach program materials to educate the public about the history of the Isaiah T. Montgomery House and Mound Bayou.	\$27,196	\$25,000	Mississippi Heritage Trust, Knights and Daughters of Tabor



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		Montgomery House and Mound Bayou	Materials will also address the community-wide effort to restore this National Historic Landmark and for the house to serve as a catalyst for Mound Bayou's cultural heritage tourism program. The goal of the program is to position Mound Bayou to become an active participant and beneficiary of the thriving heritage tourism economy of the Mississippi Delta.			
14	SHIL	PMIS 233823A – “Flame of Remembrance” Grand Illumination	The commemoration will feature 23,746 candles placed on Shiloh Battlefield as a memorial to the American soldiers from twenty states who fell here on April 6 & 7, 1862. “Flames of Remembrance” is a unique interpretive tool which will allow visitors to visually comprehend the magnitude of the casualties incurred at Shiloh. This project meets LMDI criteria 1 and 2.	\$12,480	\$12,000	City of Savannah, Team Hardin County, Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Friends of Shiloh National Military Park



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2017.

Program Marketing

The new website was launched in November 2017 and is the LMDI website in use today. The webpage features information about the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative including the legislation. It contains links to the two phases of the heritage study completed by the Denver Service Center in 1998. It names all of the parks included in the LMDI and provides links to each of their webpages. The website highlights important natural, cultural, historic, and heritage tourism opportunities in the region including the length of the visit. There are also two longer tourism trails shared, the General Grant tour and the trail of the Hellhound (about blues music), which include stops at multiple sites and would take several days to complete. The LMDI webpage links to the LMDI park unit webpages and as the parks share stories these get shared on the “news” tab of the LMDI website. The website shares stories about the people, important places, and notable events in the region and news and ongoing stories. It highlights American Indian heritage, African American heritage, the people of the Delta, the Civil War, and natural resources. There is also a link which captures events and programs across NPS sites through a search filter feature. Finally, phone numbers for each of the LMDI units are included for those with questions.

Annual Meeting

The 2017 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: August 3, 2017

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Anecdotally, attendees included Carrie Mardorf, Laura Miller from BUFF, Brian McCutchen from FODO, Taronna Armstrong from WICL, Robin White from CSHS, Ashley Baggett from FODO, Ashley Berry from SHIL, Tim Good from ULSG, Steven McCoy from GUIS, Dan Scheidt from SERO, Christine Arato from JELA/JAZZ, among others. There was no available information regarding the majority of topics discussed at the meeting, but it is known that compliance was discussed. The conversations and the outcomes are reviewed below.

Compliance for the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative

The Board brought up concerns about compliance with Section 106 (54 USC 306108) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Section 106 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Research was completed on similar programs to understand how others were handling compliance. The Board decided to delegate the signing authority as well as responsibility for compliance to the park awarding the project. The Board felt this would work best given that parks are more familiar with the NPS compliance processes than partners. This would include an amendment to the LMDI Charter, updates to the LMDI Standard Operating Procedures, and additional



information to the fiscal year funding guidance. Until final changes were made, a rapid screening process was implemented. The screening questions and responses included the following:

1. Is the project a pass-through of funding, with the project occurring on non-federal property and the NPS having no direct or indirect influence in implementation?
2. Is the project one that has no potential to cause effect to resources, such as an interpretive brochure, report, web-based exhibit, video, or research project that does not require destructive investigation of a cultural resource and has no potential to cause effects?
 - a. If Yes to 1 or 2: Your project is either exempt from documentation of NEPA and NHPA or compliance with NEPA and NHPA are not required.
3. Does the project consist of installation of exhibits, markers or similar features at a non-park location?
 - a. If yes, the agency official will need to make a determination regarding the project's potential to cause effects, including consideration of whether the installation location has archeological sensitivity where ground disturbance is required, or if the viewshed of a historic district or cultural landscape is effected (after the area of potential effect is established and surveyed.) The agency official may make a finding that there is no potential for effect on cultural resources and no environmental effects, in which case a documented compliance action will be indicated to record the findings. Meeting with an Interdisciplinary Team and using an Environmental Screening Form may be helpful in reaching a finding.
4. Does the project consist of an in-park event by a partner consistent in scope with routinely occurring events at the park and permitted under a Special Use Permit?
 - a. If yes, follow established park procedures for permitting the event.

Criteria for Prioritizing LMDI Projects

Updated criteria for prioritizing projects was suggested at the 2017 annual meeting. This criteria included the following language:

1. An event or activity that results directly in increased heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (e.g., festivals, marketing brochures);
2. A product that enhances a visitor's understanding of the LMDR heritage that is geared toward heritage tourism (e.g., waysides, signage, educational brochures);
3. A project that leads to the identification, preservation, or interpretation of a natural, cultural, or recreational resource aimed at heritage tourism; and
4. Note: Projects that qualify for NPS cyclic funding will normally not be considered for funding unless there is a compelling case made for LMDI funding

Although the updates were proposed they do not appear to have been adopted except for point four.



YEAR 24: 2018

Program Management

In 2018 Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Ste. Geneviève National Historical Park were added as LMDI park units. In addition, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial's name was changed to Gateway Arch National Park. Finally, multiple superintendent roles were filled at LMDI units.

- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial changed to Gateway Arch National Park
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site was added as an LMDI unit
- Ste. Geneviève National Historical Park was added as an LMDI unit
- BUFF: Mark Foust filled the superintendent vacancy
- HOSP: Superintendent Josie Fernandez retired and Laura Miller was named superintendent
- JELA: Charles Hunt filled the superintendent vacancy
- LIHO: Tim Good became superintendent
- ULSG: Superintendent Tim Good moved to Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Tucker Blythe became superintendent
- SERO: Director Stan Austin moved to the Pacific West region and Robert Vogel became director
- NPS: P. Daniel Smith became acting director

Also, in 2018 the Department of Interior began a new oversight program for financial assistance agreements. The consequences of the new oversight program made it progressively more difficult for financial assistance agreements with external partners to be vetted and approved for funding. As a result, a substantive discussion began among LMDI stakeholders, regarding the need to improve and streamline the operations of the program.

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

The number of projects by unit and the amount funded can be found in Table 54.

Table 54: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
CARI	3	\$73,820
SHIL	2	\$42,000
BUFF	2	\$32,000
JELA	1	\$24,992
WICL	1	\$23,470
UGRR	1	\$12,500
ULSG	2	\$3,761



The projects that were funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 55.



Table 55: FY18 Funded Projects

	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	BUFF	PMIS 223835A – Promote CCC Heritage Tourism in Arkansas	Funding will be used to create interpretive materials that tell the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) history in Arkansas. Materials developed will include a brochure, interpretive video, and a virtual CCC trail to be posted on the State of Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism website.	\$16,120	\$15,500	Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Buffalo National River partners, Department of Arkansas Heritage
2	BUFF	PMIS 243165A – Buffalo River Heritage Festival	Funding will be used to support the third annual Buffalo River Heritage Festival in Jasper, AR. The one-day festival will highlight the tradition of music and story telling that is unique to the Ozark region, and will celebrate the artists and traditional artisans of the region. The festival will serve to promote heritage tourism in northwest Arkansas, and to cultivate partnerships with the Buffalo Theater Board, the local schools, and local businesses, and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.	\$17,160	\$16,500	Buffalo Theater Board
3	CARI	PMIS 242851A – Cane River Heritage Festival Series	The three one-day festivals will each highlight and promote the unique Creole heritage of the Cane River Region and provide educational and recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages from both urban and rural areas. The festivals will promote heritage tourism in central Louisiana. This project supports the LMDI goal (1) of increasing heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR) through development of festivals. This project also fulfills Section 1104 Delta Heritage Corridors and Cultural Centers and the Music Heritage Program of P.L. 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.	\$24,908	\$23,950	Cane River Heritage Area



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4	CARI	PMIS 242989A – Preservation Plan for the Badin-Roque House	This project will provide funds for a preservation plan and treatment recommendations for the Badin-Roque House (built circa 1770s) in Isle Brevelle, Louisiana. This project supports the LMDI goal (3) of preserving a cultural resource aimed at heritage tourism and open to the public within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. This project also fulfills Section 1106 Historic Structures and Sites Survey and Section 1107 Historic and Archeological Resources Program of P.L. 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.	\$10,920	\$37,369.67	St. Augustine Historical Society
5	CARI	PMIS 242990A – Cane River Visitor Orientation Video Project	The Cane River Visitor Orientation Video Project is an ideal interpretive method to illustrate 300-years of history in the Cane River Region and supports the LMDI goal (2) of increasing heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR) through development of a product that enhances a visitor’s understanding of the LMDR heritage.	\$12,500	\$12,500	Cane River National Heritage Area
6	JELA	PMIS 243173A – Develop Public Events on the Impact of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) on American Identity	This project brings together NPS staff with local and national partners to sponsor a series of community conversations revolving around screenings of the forthcoming Public Broadcasting Service documentary “1882.” The series will build on an award-winning pilot with documentary screenings in Memphis, Cleveland (MS), and New Orleans, as well as other possible locations. Screenings will include panel discussions at park sites and partner museums.	\$26,000	\$24,991.96	Center for Asian American Media, National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis), Chinese Historical Society of Memphis, Mid-South and Rhodes College
7	SHIL	PMIS 243214A – Augmented Reality – Corinth Contraband Camp	This project will create a meaningful experience for the public through an augmented reality application designed specifically for the Corinth Contraband Camp. Using eight bronze life-size statues and plaques located at the site, visitors will be guided through life at the camp from	\$22,880	\$22,000	Northeast Mississippi Community College and Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau



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			November 1862 - January 1864. This project meets LMDI criteria 2 and 4.			
8	SHIL	PMIS 243215A – YAP! – Youth Ambassador Program	Corinth School District would like to partner with Shiloh National Military Park to bring YAP! programming to students in North Mississippi. Youth Ambassadors will travel to Shiloh National Military Park to learn about the history of the Corinth Contraband Camp, create music, and videos about the site, and share the interpretive media created through various social media outlets. This project meets LMDI criteria 2 and 4.	\$20,800	\$20,000	Corinth School District
9	UGRR	PMIS 243159A – Spirit of the Blues: Celebrating Roots of Delta Music Performances	‘Spirit of the Blues’ will build on other collaboration projects by sponsoring performances during conferences that bridge two interrelated African American musical traditions rooted in Southern slave and sharecropping plantation cultures: Negro Spirituals and the Blues.	\$26,000	\$12,500	Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University
10	ULSG	PMIS 242636A – Educating the Public About Memphis’s African American Slave Trade – design and production of historic marker	This project will design, produce, and install a historic metal marker in Memphis on the site of an antebellum slave pen owned by Nathan Bedford Forrest. (on Adams between Second and Third Streets). The marker would interpret the slave trade in Memphis and Bedford's role in it as the owner of one of the two largest slave pens in Memphis.	\$3,000	\$2,761.49	unknown
11	ULSG	PMIS 243004A – Telling the Story of Lee Walker’s Lynching with marker	This project will establish a marker to identify the site of the lynching of Lee Walker on July 23, 1893, in downtown Memphis. His lynching is considered as the only mob lynching to take place in downtown Memphis. This marker will provide the story of Walker’s lynching and public reaction. This proposed marker is part of a larger effort to publicly recognize all identifiable lynchings that occurred in Shelby County, TN.	\$1,040	\$1,000	Unknown
12	WICL	PMIS 243210A – Klipsch Heritage Museum- Conduct an Assessment	Funding is to conduct an assessment of water infiltration into the basement of the Klipsch Heritage Museum building, and provide	\$26,000	\$23,470	Klipsch Heritage Museum Association, Inc.



		of Water Infiltration and an Archeological Survey Assessment of water infiltration	treatment recommendations for repairs which will also consist of an archaeological survey to search for particular archaeological sites or kinds of sites, to detect patterns in the distribution of material culture over regions, to make generalizations or test hypotheses about past cultures, and to assess the risks that development projects will have on archaeological heritage. This project supports the LMDI goal (3) preserving a natural, cultural, or recreational resource aimed at heritage tourism; e.g., preservation of a structure or an object that has public visitation.			
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Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2018.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2018.

Annual Meeting

The 2018 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: September 11th-12th, 2018

Location: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site Visitor Center, St. Louis, MO

The attendees on the annual meeting agenda included those in Table 56.

Table 56: 2018 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Karen Bradford	Superintendent	ARPO
Mark Foust	Superintendent	BUFF
Carrie Mardorf*	Superintendent	CARI
Robin White	Superintendent	CHSC
David Kilton	Chief of Interpretation & Education	CHSC
Brian McCutchen	Superintendent	FODO
Lisa Frost	Superintendent	FOSM
Laura Miller	Superintendent	HOSP
Mike Ward	Superintendent	JEFF
Franklin Mares	Deputy Superintendent	JEFF
Rebecca Lasell	Superintendent	JELA/JAZZ
Tim Good	Superintendent	LIHO
Larry Johnson	Superintendent	OZAR
Ashley Berry	Supervisory Park Ranger	SHIL
Sheri Jackson	Program Management Specialist	UGRR
Nichole McHenry	Acting Superintendent	ULSG
Tarona Armstrong	Superintendent	WICL
Danita Brown	AIA Historical Architect	SERO
Chris Abbett	Associate Regional Director, Partnerships, Interpretation & Education	SERO
Dan Scheidt	Chief, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science	SERO
Elisa Kunz	Heritage Areas Coordinator	SERO

* Participated by telephone

The annual meeting included discussions on multiple topics. The conversations and the outcomes are reviewed below.

LMDI Leadership

The Board discussed the retirement of Dan Scheidt and the arrivals of Barbara Judy and Danita Brown (acting) at the Southeast Regional Office. It was decided that Tarona



Armstrong would serve as the Board chair for the next two-year term beginning in FY19 and Rebecca Lasell was elected vice-chair.

Program Administration

The Board discussed the need for an Administrative Officer (AO) for the program. In the past the AO for the Board chair helped with program operations. The Board chose to compile a list of eligible Agreements Technical Representatives (ATRs) in the Southeast and Midwest Regions to identify someone to assist with the program. It was also brought up that an administrative history of the program would be helpful.

Outreach, Promotion, and Partnerships

The general strategy for promotion of the LMDI grant programs has been the park and program website. The Board discussed what other strategies could be used for promotion as well as whether the current strategies had a broad enough reach.

LMDI Website

Ashley Berry provided a tutorial on the LMDI website and the process through which park updates would be reflected in the LMDI webpage. She explained that the park website will link to the LMDI website and when park personnel add press releases and announcements to the park website they are automatically linked to the LMDI website. She shared that the LMDI website will have a link for the public to apply for a grant. A Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern at SHIL designed the LMDI website. After discussing the need for an additional photo for the main page, the Board concluded that Ashley would connect with the park web masters to discuss the process for connecting to the LMDI webpage.

Agreements and Contracting in Relation to LMDI

It was brought up that the current procurement of agreements and contracts does not align with other NPS programs. The Board also discussed the process for funding and noted that after the Board approves a project funding does not usually get dispersed for another two years due to review and approval processes.

LMDI Legislative Authority and Intent Versus Current Structure and Operation

Elisa Kunz, the National Heritage Area (NHA) Coordinator from the Southeast Regional Office discussed the similarities between the LMDI and NHA's noting how both programs supply technical assistance to communities. She emphasized the importance of providing technical assistance and complying with Department of Interior regulations and Section 106. Chris Abbett and Dan Scheidt from the Southeast Regional Office described that the LMDI Charter and Bylaws can be modified as needed to meet technical assistance or administrative requirements. The intent of the program to support non-NPS entities and organizations was emphasized. The Board also discussed cooperative agreements versus grants and decided to reach out to Rose McClelland for more information about this.

The Board brought up the idea of having a third party administer the program to reduce the burden on NPS superintendents and better support local entities with their funding



needs. Humanities Councils which are present in every state and also named in the legislation were brought up as entities that could assist with program outreach and funding management. It was decided to discuss a partnership agreement with these organizations.

Review of LMDI Processes and Guidelines for FY19

The Board clarified that all submitted projects need to be related to the legislation (Public Law 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative) and should state the section of the law in the PMIS justification section that the project will address. The project guidelines provide information on the types of projects that fit this criteria.

Brian Straka from the Southeast Region revisited the guidelines for review and consideration of FY19 projects from the Standard Operating Procedures with the Board. These guidelines emphasized that eligible units, programs, and centers will submit project statements to PMIS with the LOMI designation and the park name in the title by July 31. The project submittals should fall within \$25,000 or \$35,000 for two phases and include the total cost in the PMIS statement. Projects may be submitted more than once, but generally not more than two years without a specific reason for continuation. All parks submitting more than one project need to prioritize their projects and share this with the chair of the Board, but should refrain from submitting more than three projects.

Compliance Review

The Board revisited the discussion about Section 106 compliance. Danita Brown reviewed the white pages created by the Section 106 coordinator at SERO with assistance from Midwest Regional Office. A memo from July 3, 2017 regarding the rapid screening process was also discussed. The decision from that memo was that rapid screening criteria #1 and #2 would be revised by the Section 106 coordinators. The reasoning was that Section 106 compliance is required because the program uses federal funds. The need to enter the project into the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system for Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) specialist review to comply with NEPA and NHPA was also discussed. The Board decided to revise the Standard Operating Procedures to clarify that the park superintendent is responsible for Section 106 compliance.

Review of Charter and Bylaws

The Board reviewed the LMDI Bylaws, Charter, and Standard Operating Procedures to make necessary updates.

In the bylaws, Section 2 under “financial” was updated with the following language.

The Chief in consultation with the Board of Directors may retain an administrative amount not to exceed 5% of the LMDI allotment for costs such as assessments to the program, travel for invited guests and SERO staff member(s) to the annual meeting, and pay for services (Agreement Technical Representative, Administrative Officer, Content Management Software Author).



In addition, the units in the LMDI charter were updated to change the name of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to Gateway Arch National Park, include Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and add Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park which was nearly through the process of becoming a park unit.

A sentence was added to the charter about the ability to attend the annual meeting virtually or in-person if a project from the park was being reviewed.

In the standard operating procedures an update was made to specifically state that similar projects could not be submitted consecutively for more than two years without strong reasoning. The same addition to the bylaws was added to the SOP and information about Section 106 and NEPA compliance.

Discussion and Status of FY18 Projects

Out of all 18 projects from fiscal year 2018, 16 were completed. For the two that were not completed the funding was returned to the Southeast Region. The Board was made aware that they needed to upload completion reports for any FY18 projects.

Discussion of Proposed Projects for FY19 and Voting

While reviewing the projects, the Board sought more clarification from CARI on the budgetary requirements. A total of 13 projects were approved for a sum of \$210,043. JELA was planning to submit a project on behalf of their heritage center bringing the project total to 14.

Meeting Selection for FY19

The next meeting was set for August 13th and 14th, 2019 at JELA/JAZZ with NATC as the backup.



YEAR 25: 2019

Program Management

The only change in program management in 2019 was at the NPS level; David Vela replaced P. Daniel Smith as acting director of the NPS in October 2019.

Program Activities

Funding and Projects

Due to the 2018 Department of Interior change in the process for financial assistance agreements, the program temporarily paused project funding as the new way forward was determined. Some projects moved forward as financial assistance agreements while the others remained on hold to be funded the following year. The total amount of funding available to spend for fiscal year 2019 projects was \$230,000. The number of projects by unit and the amount to be funded can be found in Table 57.

Table 57: Number of Projects and Amount of Funding by Unit

NPS Unit	Frequency	Amount Funded
CARI	3	\$60,150
SERO	1	\$49,914
JAZZ	3	\$26,000
SHIL	1	\$10,000
ULSG	2	\$8,300

The projects that were to be funded and the amounts they were funded for can be found in Table 58.



Table 58: FY19 Funded Projects

1	NPS Unit	Project	Project Description	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Partner
1	CARI	PMIS 243400A – Complete Engineering Feasibility Study on Bermuda Bridge	This project will provide funds to complete an engineering feasibility study and treatment recommendations for the historic Bermuda Bridge in Bermuda, Louisiana. This project supports the LMDI goal (3) of preserving a cultural resource aimed at heritage tourism and open to the public within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. This project also fulfills Section 1106 Historic Structures and Sites Survey and Section 1107 Historic and Archeological Resources Program of P.L. 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.	\$25,000	\$25,000	Cane River Waterway Commission, Cane River National Heritage Area, Natchitoches Parish
2	CARI	PMIS 244176A – Create Interpretive Media at Los Adaes Historic Site	An interpretive plan for the site with preliminary graphic designs and cost estimates is needed to propel Los Adaes into the 21st century. The plan will form the groundwork for all future interpretive media and also give the heritage area a phased approach in which signs, panels, waysides, and exhibits can be created in a cohesive manner. This project supports the LMDI goal (2) a product that enhances a visitor's understanding of the LMDI heritage that is geared toward heritage tourism.	\$10,500	\$10,400	Cane River National Heritage Area
3	CARI	PMIS 252031A – Stabilization Plan for Fort Jesup State Historical Society	This project will provide funds for a stabilization plan to repair the historic kitchen and cultural landscape at Fort Jesup State Historical Site. This project supports the LMDI goal (3) of preserving a cultural resource aimed at heritage tourism and open to the public within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. This project also fulfills Section 1106 Historic Structures and Sites Survey and Section 1107 Historic and Archeological Resources Program of P.L. 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.	\$24,750	\$24,750	Cane River National Heritage Area
4	JAZZ	PMIS 252818A – River Road African American Museum Exhibit - Planning	This project would create a professionally curated, designed, and installed “Rural Roots of Jazz” permanent exhibit in the front room of the River Road African American Museum (12 x 12 square ft.), LA. Highlights of this exhibit would include an oral history	\$5,200	\$5,200	River Road African American Museum



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			interview viewing section, historical instruments, photographs, and sheet music that are currently in the River Road African American Museum's (RRAM) collection, and a map of the rural area in Ascension Parish in relationship to New Orleans.			
5	JAZZ	PMIS 252818B – River Road African American Museum Exhibit – Fabrication & Installation	This project would create a professionally curated, designed, and installed “Rural Roots of Jazz” permanent exhibit in the front room of the River Road African American Museum (12 x 12 square ft.), LA. Highlights of this exhibit would include an oral history interview viewing section, historical instruments, photographs, and sheet music that are currently in the RRAM’s collection, and a map of the rural area in Ascension Parish in relationship to New Orleans.	\$15,600	\$15,600	River Road African American Museum
6	JAZZ	PMIS 252818C – River Road African American Museum Exhibit – Research & Writing	This project would create a professionally curated, designed, and installed “Rural Roots of Jazz” permanent exhibit in the front room of the River Road African American Museum (12 x 12 square ft.), LA. Highlights of this exhibit would include an oral history interview viewing section, historical instruments, photographs, and sheet music that are currently in the RRAM’s collection, and a map of the rural area in Ascension Parish in relationship to New Orleans.	\$5,200	\$5,200	River Road African American Museum
7	SERO	PMIS 283511A – Planning for Lower Mississippi Delta Region to Support Local Cultural Institutions	Planning effort will include an administrative summary of twenty-five years of operation of the LMDI program. Administrative summary, in combination with assessment of new operational requirements with NPS and DOI, will be used to develop a Program Plan for LMDI operations.	\$49,900	\$49,914	Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands
8	SHIL	PMIS 253103A – Corinth Contraband Camp Augmented Reality Application	This project will create a meaningful experience for the public through an augmented reality application designed specifically for the Corinth Contraband Camp. Using eight bronze life-size statues and plaques located at the site, visitors will be guided through life at the camp from November 1862 - January 1864. This project meets LMDI criteria 2 and 4.	\$10,400	\$10,000	Northeast Mississippi Community College and Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
9	ULSG	PMIS 252236A – Creating and Installing Historic Marker at	Funding is requested for a historic marker to be placed in the cemetery where Thomas Moss is buried. The marker will bring attention to his lynching	\$3,000	\$3,000	Unknown



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		Lynching Victim Grave (Thomas Moss)	and that of two others (Calvin McDowell and William Henry Stewart) in March of 1892 in north Memphis. This project addresses the LMDI mandate for increasing heritage tourism in the Lower Mississippi region.			
10	ULSG	PMIS 253035A – Remembering Lynching Victims of Shelby County	Two markers will be placed near the locations of Shelby County lynchings. One is for an enslaved man (name unknown) who was lynched in 1851 in downtown Memphis. The other is for Wash Henley who was lynched in 1869 near Bartlett, TN. This project addresses the LMDI mandate for increasing heritage tourism in the Lower Mississippi region.	\$6,000	\$5,300	Lynching Sites Project



Program Deliverables

Reports

There were no reports from LMDI projects completed in 2019.

Marketing

There was no available information about program marketing in 2019.

Annual Meeting

The 2019 annual meeting took place on the following dates and at the following location.

Dates: October 16th-17th, 2019

Location: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans, LA

The attendees on the annual meeting agenda included those in Table 59.

Table 59: 2019 Annual Meeting Attendees

Name	Position Title	Location
Karen Bradford	Superintendent	ARPO
Robin White	Superintendent	CHSC
Toni Webber	Park Ranger	CHSC
Bill Fields	Chief, Heritage and Resources Education and Protection	FODO
Laura Miller	Superintendent	HOSP
Mike Ward	Superintendent	JEFF
Chuck Hunt	Superintendent	JELA/JAZZ
Rebecca Lasell	Deputy Superintendent	JELA/JAZZ
Tim Good	Superintendent	LIHO
Laura Acosta	Superintendent	PERI
Ashley Berry	Supervisory Park Ranger	SHIL
Tucker Blythe	Superintendent	ULSG
Bill Justice	Superintendent	VICK
Tarona Armstrong	Superintendent	WICL
Barbara Judy	Chief Park Planning and Stewardship	SERO
Rose McClelland	Grants Specialist	SERO
Brian Straka	Lead Grants Management Officer	SERO
Jeff Shafer	Chief of Contracting	SERO

The annual meeting included discussions on multiple topics. The conversations and the outcomes are reviewed below.

Legislative Authority Review

SERO provided a summary of progress toward implementation of Public Law 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative. Based on the research it was surmised that the work mandated by the law had largely been completed. The reasoning for this was that the heritage study completed by the Denver Service Center in 1998 addressed Sections 1103 and 1104. The sections that can still have work completed are Sections 1105, 1106, and 1107. These are largely archeology projects. For financial assistance and grants going forward a new authority instead of P.L. 103-



433 should be used to spend LMDI funds. The solicitor's review of the program also brought forth that events can no longer be funded under the LMDI authority.

Review of Similar Programs

RTCA shared the structure of their program with the Board. They have a \$380,000 challenge cost program that requires a partner. The partners have to provide a match in funding. The grants are also around \$25,000. Outdoor Foundation manages the program and they only do one cooperative agreement per year. They run applications through their website and once completed share the applications for making funding choices and then send those to the Outdoor Foundation who handles the processing.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program also shared their program with the Board. JACS was enacted through Public Law 109-441, 120 Stat. 3288 in 2006. The program grants \$29 million, to non-profits, universities, and others to document Japanese American incarceration interpretation. They fund a diversity of projects types. They solicit proposals through posts on their website, a post on grants.gov, and posts on the program Facebook page. Once they receive proposals, have an internal group do a review. They employ one full-time staff and one part-time staff to complete their program.

Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results Exercise

The Board members completed a process in which they identified the strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and how to achieve results for the program. The following are the top results of the exercise:

- **Strengths**
 - Supporting culture in economically challenged areas
 - Increasing opportunities for heritage tourism
 - Building connections with communities
 - Expanding funding program to new audiences
 - Reach out to small entities
- **Opportunities**
 - Educating new NPS leaders
 - Promoting communities who receive less exposure to the NPS
 - Addressing community mistrust
 - Developing partnerships that lead to sustainability
 - Developing partnerships with HBCUs
- **Aspirations**
 - Supporting small entities and enabling them to thrive long-term
 - Amplifying national stories that originated in the region
 - Building strong and enduring relationships with the communities
 - Spending more time building the program and streamlining processes
 - Ensure program sustainability
 - Achieving resource preservation and understanding



- Allowing for NPS education and exposure to a diverse audience
- **Results**
 - NPS education and exposure to a diverse audience
 - Success measures: Increase in funding applications, increase in communications regarding program
 - Amplify national stories that originated in the region
 - Success measures: Identification of organizations with this capability, partnerships with universities
 - Support small entities and enable them to continue to benefit
 - Success measures: Provide right amount of funding, develop partnerships for preservation

Status of FY19 Projects

A total of \$227,700 was provided in FY19. Approximately \$68,950 was able to be spent in financial agreements. An additional \$49,914 was spent in procurement with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University with this administrative history. A total of \$108,836 had to be returned to SERO. If financial assistance agreements were able to proceed as usual it would have only been \$22,685 returned.

Review of FY18 and FY19 Operational Challenges

During the meeting, the Board agreed that the LMDI program should identify a non-profit partner to assist with program administration. The intent was to do so by FY21 and to model the partnership along the lines of RTCA.



SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM

Program Management

A structure for program management was set up quickly. By the end of 1995 the program had already chosen Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve as headquarters, and while temporary in the early years, this ended up being a key location for program operations. Documentation of program materials became a function of Interior Region 2 NPS Regional Office at some point during the program. The setup for operation and management of the program from 1995 to 1997 included superintendents and NPS personnel managing state operations and legislative theme areas. It is unclear when this morphed into the current Board structure in which superintendents or their representatives all meet to discuss program operations, but the change likely took place between 1998 to 2003. After this point, program management characterized by the Board with two elected positions and assistance from the Cultural Resource Program at Interior Region 2 NPS Regional Office has been stable.

Program Activities

In the early years there was a strong focus on getting the program setup and addressing the studies outlined in the legislation. As early as 1996 there is evidence that funding had been received and project work begun. There is no record of funding from 1998 through 2002, but the project record and funding amounts are well documented from 2003 forward. The number of projects and amount funded for 1996, 1997, and 2003-2019 can be found in Table 60.

Table 60: LMDI Projects and Funding by Year

For Years 1996, 1997, and 2003 to 2019

Year	Number of Projects	Amount Funded ³
1996	17	Unknown
1997	15	Unknown
2003	15	\$230,000.00
2004	8	\$113,000.00
2005	11	\$152,500.00
2006	13	\$228,000.00
2007	16	\$226,005.74
2008	14	\$228,000.00
2009	5	\$75,600.00
2010	17	\$226,000.00
2011	14	\$226,300.00
2012	9	\$187,250.00
2013	14	\$192,179.22
2014	12	\$208,620.70
2015	13	\$192,598.82
2016	11	\$223,089.21
2017	14	\$189,010.57
2018	12	\$212,543.12
2019	10	\$154,364.00
TOTAL	240	\$3,265,061.38

³ The amounts provided are not adjusted for inflation.



The number of projects by NPS sponsoring unit and the amount funded for 1996, 1997, and 2003-2019 can be found in Table 61.

Table 61: LMDI Projects and Funding by Sponsoring Unit

For Years 1996, 1997, and 2003 to 2019

NPS Unit	Number of Projects	Amount Funded ⁴
ARPO	13	\$144,900.00
BUFF	5	\$95,192.21
CARI	33	\$558,562.70
CHSC	11	\$142,082.17
FODO	8	\$97,192.26
GCSO	1	Unknown
GUIS	2	\$43,450.74
HOSP	7	\$96,257.48
JACS	1	\$16,000.00
JAZZ	21	\$301,201.20
JELA	29	\$555,489.12
NATC	30	\$350,285.25
NATR	11	\$136,000.00
RTCA	2	Unknown
SEAC	5	Unknown
SEFA	1	Unknown
SERO/IR2	8	\$157,132.00
SESO	3	Unknown
SHIL	23	\$201,150.00
UGRR	6	\$87,601.36
ULSG	4	\$12,061.49
VICK	14	\$216,950.00
WICL	5	\$53,553.40
TOTAL	243	\$3,265,061.38

Note. GCSO = Gulf Coast Support Office; SEFA = Southeast Field Area; SESO = Southeast Support Office

Program Deliverables and Legislative Review

The reports published addressed some large portions of the legislation. The Denver Service Center heritage study published in 1998 met the majority of Section 1103 aside from the comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan which the report was intended to lay the framework for another study to complete. The heritage study also addressed Section 1104 of the legislation by providing a list of resources relating to Native American and African American heritage and music heritage. The study also provided management alternatives for preserving and sharing the Delta's resources. The Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan, the Earthworks of Ouachita Valley, and the Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region were important to addressing the Section 1107 requirement for a survey program to investigate, inventory, and evaluate known historic and archeological sites and structures. In addition, they met the needs of on-site activities including surveys, inventories, and stabilization and other activities outlined in Section 1106 of the legislation.

⁴ The amounts provided are not adjusted for inflation.



The program also had a variety of marketing deliverables. The program developed two websites, one in 1996 and the other in 2017. There were two well-known program brochures developed and multiple driving tours and promotional items related to archeology and the Civil War, among others which helped to address pieces of sections 1103 and 1107 of the legislation. A full review of the completion of P.L. 103-433 can be found in Appendix A.

Annual Meetings

Meetings with program management occurred in the first year of the program. While meetings were more frequent in the early years, they developed into the annual meeting that takes place in the fall each year to discuss program business and determine projects for the following year. Although meeting notes were not available for every year it seems likely a meeting did occur each year of the program.

Conclusion

The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Board and Cultural Resources Program at IR2 have been very active from the onset of the program. The administrative history revealed a plethora of projects in all states of the region. The work of the initiative has covered many of the areas discussed in the legislation such as archeology, history, natural resources, cultural resources, heritage, and tourism, and supported other entities in their work to meet research, interpretation, and preservation of these resources. The reports addressed many aspects of Sections 1103, 1104, and 1107 of the legislation and LMDI projects addressed aspects of Sections 1103, 1105, 1106, and 1107 of the legislation. Although there are subsets of legislative sections that remain to be addressed, overall the program achieved much of what it was directed to do. Moreover, the program developed partnerships with multiple organizations across the Delta Region to support the preservation and enjoyment of resources and the enhancement of tourism and the economy and allow for the sustainability of this work.



Chapter Two

Stakeholder Interviews



METHODS

The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Operations Planning study included interviews with key stakeholders. The key stakeholders were superintendents or staff from the National Park Service units associated with the LMDI, involved IR2 regional staff, involved partners, and NPS employees from the early years of the program.

Study Design

The project employed thirty-minute, semi-structured phone interviews to understand stakeholder perceptions of program involvement; program knowledge; program time commitment; communication and outreach; funding and legislative intent; and program effectiveness. The initial set of interview questions were developed by the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Board vice-chair and refined by the Eppley Institute research team. These preliminary interview questions were asked of stakeholders during informal in-person fifteen-minute interviews at the annual meeting in October 2019.

After the annual meeting, the interview questions were revised and updated to ensure that all key issues which emerged during the annual meeting were captured in the questions. The questions were pilot tested with an Eppley Institute staff member for clarity, relevance, length, and question flow and adjusted to maintain clarity and flow. The revised questions were reviewed by the LMDI staff liaison at the IR2 and it was agreed that minor adjustments to questions would be made during interviews based on the role and affiliation of the interviewee (i.e., park superintendent, program lead, or leader of a non-NPS organization) as well as for those who had played a specific role within the LMDI (e.g., website development or assistance with an early report). Due to the similarity of the final interview questions to the informal interview questions, those who had participated in an interview at the annual meeting were requested for a second fifteen-minute follow-up phone interview.

Each interview began with a script to assure participants of the confidentiality of the interview process and to obtain agreement to record the interview (see Appendix F). The script was followed by the interview questions (see Appendix G for the informal interview questions and Appendix H for the final set of interview questions).

Study Participants

A total of 36 different stakeholders with 27 different affiliations were identified through the Park Planning and Stewardship Branch at the IR2 regional office and through the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Board of Directors. The participants in the stakeholder interviews included superintendents or staff from the 22 National Park Service units associated with the LMDI program, IR2 staff with high levels of program involvement, partners with high levels of program involvement, and NPS employees who were instrumental during the early years of the program. There were 16 individuals who attended the annual meeting and were requested for an interview and 11 individuals completed interviews. All 11 of these individuals were requested for a follow-up interview and 9 completed one. A total of 27 individuals were requested for a full interview and 22 completed interviews. Overall, 31 individuals were interviewed for the study.



Data Collection

The stakeholder interviews were designed to collect information about perceptions of program involvement; program knowledge; program time commitment; communication and outreach; funding and legislative intent; and program effectiveness. A set of preliminary informal interviews were implemented to inform the development of the final interview questions. These informal interviews took place at the annual meeting on October 17, 2019.

The LMDI staff liaison at Interior Region 2 emailed all stakeholders for participation in either a full or follow-up interview on January 23, 2020. The Eppley Institute followed up with all interview participants on January 24th, 2020 to schedule interviews. Interviews took place from January 2020 through May 2020. All interviews were recorded, and notes were taken.

Data Analysis

All interview notes were reviewed by Eppley Institute staff. The recordings were consulted when notes were not sufficient to understand participant meanings. The Eppley Institute entered data by question into Microsoft Excel for analysis. All data was coded and categorized to identify trends among stakeholders. Coding was data driven, meaning that the codes arose from the interview text. Individuals were noted for their current or past participation with the program and for their participation through the Board of Directors or in another role and when applicable results were separated by current or former engagement and role.



RESULTS

The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Operations Planning project included important perceptions from the stakeholders which are shared below.

Program Involvement

More than half of the respondents heard about the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative when they began engaging with it whether serving on the Board of Directors, applying for a grant, working on a project, or facilitating grants for others. Many others had heard about the program before their involvement and several were aware of the legislation when it was passed. Almost all of the respondents had heard about it from someone serving on the Board of Directors, but a few heard about it as they were informed of job duties or through the regional office.

Among those interviewed, most had become involved in the last 10 years, but 8 were involved since 2001-2010 and 5 first engaged in the very early years from 1995-2000. A third of the interviewees were park superintendents when they first engaged with the program, just over a quarter were park division chiefs in either interpretation and education or natural and cultural resources, three held leadership positions in NPS partner organizations, two were museum technicians, and the rest held varying roles mostly at the regional level. When asked about others from their park unit or organization involved, the majority of respondents named at least one other person who engaged with the program; however, 11 respondents shared that they were the only person involved. The other involved personnel largely included park division chiefs, superintendents, deputy superintendents, administrative personnel, and regional grant staff.

Program Knowledge

When asked how they learned about the LMDI program, most participants had learned from someone at their park unit. Several others learned about it from someone on the Board of Directors at another park unit or from someone involved at the regional level. A few people learned about the program through research, Board emails, the annual meeting, or through a grant application.

No respondents received formal onboarding or training for the program; however, seven shared that they received informal training which mainly consisted of conversations with involved NPS staff or learning during the annual meeting. The rest of the respondents indicated they did not receive training at all.

The level of program knowledge varied among participants. On a scale from 1 to 10, participants rated themselves across the entire scale, with an average rating of approximately 6. The two lowest ratings came from individuals interviewed for their past knowledge of the program who are no longer engaged. Several participants shared that they felt more knowledgeable when they first got involved, but over time had lost that knowledge. The reasons for the ratings differed by participants; but those who rated their level of knowledge a 5 or lower generally discussed their lower level of involvement, their perception of lack of clarity about program goals and funding



regulations, and operational changes to the agencywide Financial Assistance program that had affected the LMDI program. Those with higher scores described this as reflecting their long-term involvement, substantial involvement, some involvement, or stated they had more to learn.

All participants shared that they were aware of the legislation that established the LMDI. On a scale of 1 to 10 participants rated their knowledge of the legislation on average a 6, but their scores ranged from 2 to 10. Those who rated their knowledge high (above an 8) stated that they had read the legislation and knew it extensively. Others who rated their knowledge above a 5 shared the reason for their score was that time had passed since their last review of the legislation. Interestingly, some who rated their knowledge above a 5 shared that they had read the legislation but did not know it extensively. Those who rated their knowledge a 5 or below most often stated the reasons for their scores were that they had read it but did not know it extensively and that time had passed since their last review of the legislation.

Program Time Commitment

Many of the interview participants stated that they did not devote substantial time to the LMDI program. For those who shared some of the things they worked on the development of project proposals and entering them into PMIS came up the most. Participants also mentioned their participation in the annual meeting and work on executing projects once they were funded. A few participants discussed outreach to partners, engagement with partners on projects, and facilitating the funding for projects at their park units.

Only one of the interview participants tracked their time spent on the program, but most were able to provide estimates of the amount of time spent on the program. The estimates ranged from 500 hours (for the program coordinator) to 0 hours for an individual who works on funding projects for the program. Given the pause in processing of Financial Assistance agreements in 2019, this likely explains the low number of hours for this specific individual. Those individuals whose estimates of time were higher generally had LMDI projects they had been working on. When asked if the amount of time spent increased since engaging with the LMDI, just over half of respondents shared it had not, the rest stated it had. One reason several respondents shared for the increase in their time was the effort needed to study operational changes for the LMDI program. This indicates that once the intended operational updates are complete the time spent will stabilize. The majority of respondents felt the amount of time spent on LMDI work was appropriate; most shared that time spent was equivalent to their level of engagement, whether due to project work or a lack of engagement.

Communication and Outreach

More than half of the NPS respondents currently engaged in the program shared that they communicated with other NPS units. Generally they communicated about projects; however, in the last year communications focused on program operations, and in many cases the challenges the program was facing due to the need for improved operational efficiency. They also discussed program participation, whether it was promoting it to



parcs that were unaware, reaching out to better understand funding requirements, or work on project proposals. More than half of the respondents also shared information with community partners. Among those who did share information, they usually communicated through conversations. Many reached out to specific partners, such as those they had worked with before or organizations that seemed to align with the intent of the legislation establishing the LMDI. Some respondents shared that they tried to reach out to broader audiences and contacted other organizations to help with outreach. The website, brochures, and emails were used to communicate to partners to a lesser extent.

Just over a third of respondents shared that they promoted the LMDI and two more shared that they did in the past. Two of these individuals only promoted the program to NPS staff. The rest of the respondents did not promote the program and for several participants program promotion was not applicable to their job. Those that promoted LMDI participation most often had formal and informal conversations with existing partners, but several reached out to their local communities. Three people promoted it only within the NPS, two used the brochure, and another two used the website for promotion.

There was some consensus on which audiences the funding helped most. Many respondents felt the funding should go to local communities in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, some specified underserved communities including minority populations, low-income communities, and rural areas. They also felt that smaller organizations were generally better recipients. They believed that cultural and heritage organizations and museums were a good fit for funding as well as projects that benefitted tourism. A few people also noted tribes, universities, and youth as audiences that LMDI funding should serve. Four respondents did not know who the funding would best serve.

Funding and Legislative Intent

When asked about the types of projects that best serve Lower Mississippi Delta Region communities, many participants indicated that preservation was important. Preservation was discussed mainly in the context of structures, but preservation of culture came up several times as well. Projects that increased tourism were also perceived to be helpful to communities; in many cases the participants specified this as heritage tourism enhancement. Other more frequent responses included heritage, culture, exhibits, festivals, research, and interpretation and education.

In consideration of the types of projects that the grants should be used to fund, consistent responses emerged. Respondents shared that projects that enhanced tourism, especially heritage tourism should be funded. In addition, they emphasized the importance of the legislation and that projects should tie into the scope outlined in P.L. 103-433. The stakeholders interviewed were supportive of education and interpretive projects, festivals and events, projects related to history, heritage, or culture, and those that improved facilities or structures. Many respondents also highlighted the importance that the project have a benefit to local communities. A smaller number of respondents endorsed projects specific to museums and planning. Some respondents also noted



that projects which had a long term impact were important. Several responses also emerged relating to projects that should not be funded. The most frequently mentioned was park-specific projects, meaning projects that only impact resources within or visitors to parks, followed by those that had one-time impacts such as festivals and events.

Most of the respondents felt that past projects met the criteria outlined in the legislation. A few people thought they did for the most part, but not in all cases. One person thought that half of the projects met the legislative requirements, while three individuals felt that past projects did not align with the legislation. Seven respondents did not know and chose not to respond. For those that did not feel past projects met the legislation or were less certain, when asked what types of projects would meet the legislation, their responses tended to coalesce around projects that had positive impacts for the community. The three project types which were each mentioned once included archeology, education, and historic preservation.

When asked about whether or not limitations should be placed on the grant amounts, a large number of respondents thought that there should be. They seemed to feel that this was necessary because of the availability of funding or because it allowed the program to impact more projects. In addition, some respondents felt it was important to maintain flexibility for different project needs. Interestingly, those who believed there should be limitations, were undecided, or felt there should be no limits, all cited program flexibility as their reason. Finally six of the stakeholders thought that there should be no limits. Those who thought this mentioned that worthy programs may be deserving of the full amount and limitations discouraged applications for funding.

Program Effectiveness

Stakeholders perceived the most beneficial part of the LMDI as giving back to the communities through funding, expertise, or other resources and partnering with communities. To a lesser extent they also perceived the ability of the program to reach underserved communities, the opportunity to develop relationships with communities, and the education opportunities the program provides for those within the region as well as those outside of it as valuable.

When asked about their perceptions of what the NPS role in the LMDI should be several stakeholders stated facilitating the funding process. Others indicated it should be to develop relationships with the community, to share information about the program with partners, to solely administer the program, to review and vote on projects, or they were not sure. A variety of other opinions were given, but in most cases they did not receive support from more than two people.

The stakeholders had several concerns when it came to program management. They were concerned about the potential for bias which might occur when parks submit projects and are responsible for project funding decisions as well. There was also some discussion about the time it takes to administer the program given the time constraints of NPS staff. A couple of stakeholders thought the Board membership should be broader than superintendents, that more transparency was needed in funding decisions,



and that communication needed improvement. Five stakeholders discussed that the current structure worked well and that having the parks manage the program was a key asset. When asked if they preferred a different structure just over half of the interviewees said they did, about a quarter did not know, and several said they liked the current structure. The alternative structures that were envisioned included a partner to administer grants, most often this was suggested as a nonprofit, or management by heritage areas, regional offices, or the Washington D.C. office.



Chapter Three

The Path Forward



DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative has survived for 26 years—a testament to the value of this remarkable program. The program continues to be pivotal for Delta communities, providing foundational funding and lasting partnerships for development of local organizations that are custodians to protect and preserve the important heritage of this region.

The findings from stakeholder interviews and the accomplishments from over a quarter century of service provide insights for guiding the future operations of the program. Key findings are highlighted below.

1. Increase NPS Awareness: Most respondents first heard about the program when they were tasked to participate in it as part of their duties. There is room for broader program promotion internal to the National Park Service within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, in order to cast the widest net possible for participation.
2. Develop Onboarding: Previously, stakeholders were not provided formal onboarding upon engagement with the program. An onboarding packet consisting of this Administrative History and the LMDI website would better orient stakeholders and enable them to engage partners and promote the goals of the program.
3. Identify Appropriate LMDI Board Composition: Developing and maintaining partnerships and collaborating on projects is a worthwhile time commitment. In the past, the LMDI board was comprised of superintendents from park units within the region. Extending the LMDI board membership beyond superintendents to relevant park staff may enable the program to be more inclusive to those park staff with established partnership projects that qualify for LMDI funding. Consideration may also be given to having a subset of LMDI park superintendents on the board, to ensure balanced participation between staff and superintendents in the two NPS regions.
4. Regional Communication: The LMDI program occurs within two NPS regions. Continued cooperative relationships, open lines of communication, and shared decision-making between the two NPS regions will enhance mutual support for the initiative.
5. Establish Non-Profit Co- Administration: The most efficient way for managing the program, given current operational processes in NPS financial assistance agreements and the fiscal year federal government budget cycle, is through a non-profit philanthropic partner. By summer of 2021, a partner organization should be selected for the LMDI program.
6. LMDI Board: While seeking a non-profit philanthropic partner, the Board will need to establish a new charter with roles and responsibilities for program administration. Key responsibilities will be providing overall guidance of the program, substantial involvement in the partnership arrangement, to include establishing an annual focus to the call for projects and selecting and ranking projects.



7. Increase LMDI Promotional Efforts: Promotion of the LMDI and raising public awareness of the funding opportunity would enhance community interest in conserving treasured resources. Establishing a comprehensive LMDI website and creating an outreach campaign would meet this recommendation. Increased promotion aligns with the most beneficial aspects of the program, namely giving back to communities and enhancing economic tourism.

8. Promote Awareness of the Full Program Scope: In collaboration with the non-profit partner organization, develop an outreach strategy that encourages project submissions addressing all program categories that are supported under the legislation. Encouraging a broad array of projects would be a beneficial outcome.

9. Develop Grant Tier System: Previously, limitations on the size of grants were necessary given the modest level of funding (~ \$230,000 annually in recent years) and to better reach more organizations and communities. In future program years, consideration could be given to developing a two-tier project award system would designate smaller and larger grants based on the capacity of the involved community organizations. Larger dollar amounts might be awarded when in the best interests of the LMDI project. This strategy would allow program agility.

Appendix A includes a concise retrospective of the tasks assigned to the Department of Interior through Public Law 103-433 - Title XI, organized by the categories of program activity that have received financial support during the 26 years the program has been operated. Projects occurred within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, which was defined through the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission (established pursuant to Public Law 100- 460); the commission report titled “The Delta Initiatives: Realizing the Dream, Fulfilling the Potential” defined the geographic extent of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region.

The categories of activity are:

1. Native American Heritage: Projects addressing interpretation of regional Native American culture and heritage (P.L. 103-433 §1104(c)).
2. African American Heritage: Projects addressing interpretation of regional African American culture and heritage (P.L. 103-433 §1104(d)).
3. Public Roads and Visitor Use Plan: Projects addressing public roads and visitor use plans and interpretive additions to public ways. Important routes include the Great River Road, Old Antonio Road, Louisiana Natchez Trace, and segments of Louisiana Highway 6 (P.L. 103-433 §1103(b)(5); §1104(e)(1)).
4. Music Heritage: Projects addressing regional music heritage with specific emphasis on the Mississippi Delta Blues (P.L. 103-433 §1104(f)(1) and (2)).
5. Museums - Planning, Implementation, Education, and Collection Integrity: Projects addressing museum planning, implementation, education and collection



integrity for long-range museum planning, “implementation grants” to these councils for enhancing collection integrity and offering educational outreach programs, and grants to these councils for assessing museum needs (P.L. 103-433 §1103(e)(2); §1105(a)).

6. HBCUs – Surveys: Projects addressing financial assistance to HBCUs for surveys, including efforts to designate historic and archeological sites for the National Register of Historic Places or as National Historic Landmarks (P.L. 103-433 §1105(a)).

7. HBCUs – Stabilize, Preserve and Interpret: Projects addressing provision of technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for stabilization, preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures (P.L. 103-433 §1106(b)).

8. Archeological Sites on Private Land: Projects addressing grants to private landowners for stabilizing archeological sites on private lands or for designating such sites for inclusion as National Landmarks or other appropriate designations (P.L. 103-433 §1106(b)).

9. Archeological Sites and Historic Structures: Projects addressing grants to qualified recipients for carrying out a program for research, interpretation, and preservation of significant historic and archeological resources of the Delta Region (P.L. 103-433 §1107 (c)(1)).

10. Archeological Sites and Historic Structures: Projects addressing grants to qualified recipients for conserving and protecting archaeological sites and structures in the Delta Region (P.L. 103-433 §1107 (c)(2)).

The LMDI program’s opportunities and challenges, as assessed and summarized through the Administrative History, have laid the foundation for a positive and strong future. Small local cultural institutions have important stories to share, and the program supports expression of that local vision. The value of the initiative is profound, and the Administrative History demonstrates that modest awards of LMDI financial assistance - combined with other local funds - have preserved and celebrated regional history and heritage that contributes to the story of our nation. The LMDI program has potential to increase the amount of funds managed under the program following a successful launch of the new operational format in 2021.



Appendices



APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE TASKS

Table 62: Summary of Legislative Tasks

Legislative Section	Legislative Task	Steps to Completion	Completed Outcomes	Remaining Elements and Recommendations
Section 1103a	A study of important natural, recreational, historical or prehistorical, and cultural lands, waters, places, and structures within the delta region. The sub-components of the study are listed below.	<p>Heritage Study</p> <p>July 1995: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA) Superintendent Robert Belous was assigned responsibility for the natural resources theme and the integration/ communication/marketing theme at the Oxford meeting which included the Mississippi Corridor Heritage Study.</p> <p>May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI) contact.</p> <p>June 1996: The Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium was held to gather stories about experiences in the Delta region.</p> <p>Dec. 1996: Meetings occurred with the public across the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR) to share stories and collect information on notable sites.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concepts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and Appendix C https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2 https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Stories of the Delta https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mrdr/mrdr_stories_delta.pdf</p> <p>Related efforts: Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sero/asp.pdf</p>	



		<p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>GIS Data Collection and Sharing</u></p> <p>April 1996: A pilot project was developed between the National Park Service (NPS) and federal, state, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations to share GIS data specific to Mississippi.</p> <p>1997: A project to document Arkansas's natural and cultural resources and heritage, and changes over time, through GIS.</p> <p><u>Tourism</u></p> <p>July 1995: Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR) Superintendent Dan Brown was assigned the tourism theme at the Oxford meeting. This broadly included heritage tourism and tourism connections.</p>		
<p>Section 1103b1</p>	<p>Recommendations for designating and interpreting roads, trails, byways, waterways, or other routes in the delta region with historic significance.</p>	<p><u>Heritage Study</u></p> <p>May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Dec. 1996: Meetings occurred with the public across the LMDR to share stories and collect information on notable sites.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concepts 2, 3, and 7 https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2, Outdoor Recreation https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Related efforts: Mississippi River Corridor Study, Volume 1 https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015038104496&view=1up&seq=3</p>	<p>While each of the transportation requirements that named a specific highway or road were completed, there were no specific recommendations made for designating roads,</p>



		<p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p>	Rangers and Amtrak: Interpreting Landscapes of the States	trails, byways, waterways, or other routes. However related initiatives and reports in the region did provide transportation recommendations.
Section 1103b2	Recommendations for vehicle tour routes linking significant sites using existing public roads.	<p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>Yazoo Valley Mound Driving</u> Feb. 1996: The Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) and the University of Mississippi developed a proposal and were meeting with chambers of commerce and state tourism bureaus to identify funding for an audio-cassette/ pamphlet driving tour of prehistoric and historic resources located along national scenic highway MS 61 and MS 1 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Mississippi Mound Driving Tour</u> Jul. 1996: SEAC and the Mississippi State Historic</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concept 3 https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2, Outdoor Recreation https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Yazoo Valley Mound Driving Tour</p> <p>Mississippi Mound Driving Tour https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/mounds/</p>	



		Preservation Office developed a driving tour of mound sites in Mississippi but also including portions of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. A brochure was being prepared for distribution to tourism centers.		
Section 1103b3	Determination of designating the Great River Road (identified in Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, 1990, pp. 102-103) including section between Baton Rouge, LA and New Orleans, LA as a National Scenic Byway, National Trails System unit, or other appropriate designation.		<p>Addressed by Federal Highway Administration. It was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2009 (see https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/designations/designated_byways.cfm). The scenic byway begins at the Arkansas border and follows the west side of the Mississippi River south (Federal Highway Administration, n.d.). At the southwest corner of Mississippi, the road splits and continues south on both sides of the river continuing through Baton Rouge and New Orleans on the eastern side (Federal Highway Administration, n.d.). It was also designated as a Louisiana Byway (https://byways.louisianatravel.com/byway/louisiana-great-river-road).</p> <p>Related efforts: Great River Road State Park New Designation Effort</p>	
Section 1103b3	Determination of designating the Old Antonio Road and the Louisiana Natchez Trace sections on Highway 84 from Vidalia, LA to Clarence, LA and Louisiana Highway 6 from Clarence, LA to	<p><u>Highway 84 and Camino Real Road Study</u> July 1995: Natchez National Historical Park (NATC) Superintendent Bob Dodson was assigned the transportation theme at the Oxford meeting which included responsibility for the Highway 84 and Camino Real Road study.</p> <p><u>U.S. 84 Georgia to Texas Planning</u></p>	<p>Addressed by the Louisiana Byways Program. The Old Antonio Road and the Louisiana Natchez Trace sections on Highway 84 from Vidalia, LA to Clarence, LA were designated as a Louisiana Byway: The Louisiana Colonial Trail (https://byways.louisianatravel.com/byway/louisiana-colonial-trails).</p> <p>Louisiana Highway 6 from Clarence, LA to the Toledo Bend Reservoir, LA was designated as a part of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail in 2004 (https://www.nps.gov/elte/index.htm).</p>	



	the Toledo Bend Reservoir, LA as a National Scenic Byway, National Trails System unit, or other appropriate designation.	1997: Planning for a U.S. 84 corridor from Brunswick, GA to Austin, TX was initiated (LMDI, 1997). The project was strictly in the planning phases, but the hope was if implemented it would boost tourism to the region (LMDI, 1997).		
Section 1103b4	Recommendation for existing public road route for commemoration of timber industry's influence on the delta region's economy in the early twentieth century. Consider designating US Highway 165 from Alexandria, LA to Monroe, LA as a National Scenic Byway, National Trails System unit, or other appropriate designation.	Highway 165 Corridor Study Nov. 1995: The study determining whether highway 165 from Alexandria, LA to Monroe, LA could be a National Scenic Byway or a component of the National Trails System was initiated. The study researched the communities between Alexandria and Monroe to describe Louisiana's timber industry including the lumber companies, the timber workers, the sawmills built, and the historic towns (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The study found that the U.S. Highway 165 corridor met the requirements for Secretarial designation commemorating the Delta timber industry and its related historic byways (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).	Addressed in: Highway 165 Corridor Study Heritage Study Volume 1, Concept 9 https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1	
Section 1103b5	A recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan for all routes suggested for designation in this study. The	Recreation Trails and Biking Integration July 1995: NATC Superintendent Bob Dodson was assigned the transportation theme at the Oxford meeting which included responsibility for	Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 2 (discusses bike and hiking paths only) https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796 Related efforts: Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center's Mississippi River Trail (a 177 mile bike trail)	The recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan including facility site recommendations and acquisition/construct



	plans will include site recommendations for visitor and interpretation facilities including acquisition and construction information and bike and hiking paths.	<p>integrating recreation trails and biking.</p> <p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>U.S. Forest Service Recreational Survey in Mississippi</u> 1997: NATC contracted with the U.S. Forest Service to complete a study of Mississippi residents' recreation preferences (LMDI, 1997).</p>	<p>Delta Heritage Trail (recreation trail in Phillips, Arkansas, and Desha Counties, AR)</p> <p>U.S. Forest Service Recreational Survey in Mississippi</p>	<p>ion information. This piece was explicitly not included in the heritage study. However, to some degree this element was addressed as related projects moved forward. A comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan for the region would be a large undertaking and may have been addressed already by states. A study which combines related state plans and plans from other reports would be a good first step.</p>
Section 1103c	An inventory and resulting list of sites and structures in the delta region suggested as potential national historic landmarks or other appropriate designation. The sub-component of the list is listed below.	<p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 2, Appendices A and B https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Related efforts: Mississippi River Corridor Study, Volume 2 https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003098285</p> <p>Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sero/asp.pdf</p>	<p>The studies completed identified existing sites and structures with a current designation. A study of additional sites and structures and proposed designations is yet to be completed. The list can likely be based off of sites identified in studies like the heritage study.</p>
Section 1103c	Recommendation for	<u>Heritage Study</u>	Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Management Alternatives	



	<p>cooperative preservation and economic development coalitions or partnerships through preservation districts.</p>	<p>May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p>	<p>https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Related efforts: Delta Vision, Delta Voices: The Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000 https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT30930885/PDF</p>	
<p>Section 1104b</p>	<p>A plan including funding recommendations for the establishment of a delta region Native American heritage corridor and heritage and cultural center with a system of satellite or cooperative sites. The sub-components of the plan are listed below.</p>	<p><u>Folkways – American Indian Cultures</u></p> <p>July 1995: Arkansas Post National Memorial (ARPO) Superintendent Laura Soulliere was assigned responsibility for the folkways theme at the Oxford meeting which included American Indian cultures.</p> <p><u>Heritage Study</u></p> <p>July 1995: JELA Superintendent Robert Belous was assigned responsibility for the integration/communication/marketing theme at the Oxford meeting which included the Mississippi Corridor Heritage Study.</p> <p>May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>June 1996: The Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium was held to gather stories about experiences in the Delta region.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concepts 4 and 5 and Management Alternative C https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2, Appendix F https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Stories of the Delta https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mrdr/mrdr_stories_delta.pdf</p> <p>Related efforts: Trail of Tears Symposium</p>	



		<p>Dec. 1996: Meetings occurred with the public across the LMDR to share stories and collect information on notable sites.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>Southern Cultural Landscapes Conference</u> May 1996: A conference that brought together cultural resource, natural resource, historic preservation, heritage tourism, and education professionals, and federal, state and local government officials to discuss the cultural landscape, it's preservation, and advocacy was hosted (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The conference considered Native American, pioneer, African-American, Antebellum, reconstruction, New South, and natural ecological processes to better understand the existing cultural landscape (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p>		
Section 1104c1	A ten-year strategy for the creation of a network of parks, museums, and other centers to interpret Native	<p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Management Alternative C (network of parks, museums, and other centers) https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p>	A specific ten-year plan was not developed. A ten-year plan to develop this network is feasible. Existing networks can likely help identify the



	American culture and heritage in the delta region.	Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.		current status of networks in the region related to Native American culture.
Section 1104c2	Recommendations for the federal role (e.g., matching grants and technical or interpretive assistance) in the heritage and cultural center.	Heritage Study May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact. Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.	Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Management Alternative C https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1	
Section 1104c4	Proposal for provision of training and education to Native Americans in the delta region for implementing study recommendations.		Not addressed	This task does not appear to have been addressed. A revisit of the heritage study recommendations and engagement with organizations and sites providing Native American heritage and cultural opportunities could help identify the types of training and education that would be beneficial to the region.
Section 1104d	A plan including funding recommendations for the establishment of a delta region African American heritage corridor	Heritage Study July 1995: JELA Superintendent Robert Belous was assigned responsibility for the integration/communication/marketing theme at the Oxford meeting which included the Mississippi Corridor Heritage Study.	Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concepts 4 and 6 and Management Alternative C https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1 Heritage Study Volume 2, Appendix E https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796 Stories of the Delta	



	<p>and heritage and cultural center with a system of satellite or cooperative sites. The sub-components of the plan are listed below.</p>	<p>May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>June 1996: The Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium was held to gather stories about experiences in the Delta region.</p> <p>Dec. 1996: Meetings occurred with the public across the LMDR to share stories and collect information on notable sites.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>African-American Heritage Tourism Conference</u> July 1995: ARPO Superintendent Laura Soulliere was assigned responsibility for the folkways theme at the Oxford meeting which included the African American Heritage Tourism Conference.</p> <p>Aug. 1995: Conference to discuss the development of an African American Heritage Corridor was held with more than 100 attendees.</p>	<p>https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mrdr/mrdr_stories_delta.pdf</p>	
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		<p><u>Southern Cultural Landscapes Conference</u> May 1996: A conference that brought together cultural resource, natural resource, historic preservation, heritage tourism, and education professionals, and federal, state and local government officials to discuss the cultural landscape, it's preservation, and advocacy was hosted (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The conference considered Native American, pioneer, African-American, Antebellum, reconstruction, New South, and natural ecological processes to better understand the existing cultural landscape (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p>		
Section 1104d1	<p>Recommendations for the creation of a heritage corridor or trail system with one or two major north-south routes and several east-west-spur loops to preserve, interpret, and celebrate African American heritage and culture throughout key historic periods</p>	<p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact. Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concept 6 (north-south route identified as well as spoke sites for hub sites) https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p>	<p>The north-south route was identified as well as spoke sites for hub sites. However, specific east-west spur loops were not developed. To complete this piece of the legislation, a proposal for linking the spoke sites in an intuitive driving manner or based on an interpretive story could be developed.</p>



	in the delta region.			
Section 1104d2	Recommendations for representing expressive culture including African American contributions of music, folklore, literature, art, science, history, education, and politics/policy in the delta region.	<p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>June 1996: The Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium was held to gather stories about experiences in the Delta region.</p> <p>Dec. 1996: Meetings occurred with the public across the LMDR to share stories and collect information on notable sites.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p> <p><u>African-American Heritage Tourism Conference</u> July 1995: ARPO Superintendent Laura Soulliere was assigned responsibility for the folkways theme at the Oxford meeting which included the African American Heritage Tourism Conference.</p> <p><u>Southern Cultural Landscapes Conference</u> May 1996: A conference that brought together cultural resource, natural resource,</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concepts 4 and 6 https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2, Appendix E https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>We Know Who We Are: An Ethnographic Overview of the Creole Traditions & Community of Isle Brevelle & Cane River, Louisiana https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2266804</p>	



		<p>historic preservation, heritage tourism, and education professionals, and federal, state and local government officials to discuss the cultural landscape, it's preservation, and advocacy was hosted (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The conference considered Native American, pioneer, African-American, Antebellum, reconstruction, New South, and natural ecological processes to better understand the existing cultural landscape (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Isle Brevelle Creole Ethnographic Study</u> Sep. 1996: Isle Brevelle Creole ethnographic study to complete oral history interviews to understand the community's architecture, settlement patterns, cultural landscape, and socioeconomic ecology (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Cane River Plantation Ethnographic Study</u> Dec. 1996: Ethnographic study with community members or descendants of workers at the Oakland (formerly Bermuda) Plantation along the Cane River to depict the history and culture of Cane River plantation life during the 18th, 19th and 20th</p>		
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<p>Section 1104d3</p>	<p>Recommendations for completing African American heritage corridor and heritage and cultural center suggestions from the Delta Initiatives report including funding suggestions for each proposal. Note: Recommendations include development of a trail system, research with universities to identify sites, marketing of the trail, and the establishment of a major African American cultural museum with smaller museums throughout the region (Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, 1990).</p>	<p>centuries (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p>Heritage Study May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p> <p>Sep. 1998: Volume 2 was published.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concept 6 (north-south route identified as well as spoke sites for hub sites) https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Heritage Study Volume 2, Appendix E (included research to identify sites and cultural centers but no designation of a primary and associated secondary cultural centers) https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003323796</p> <p>Related efforts: Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000 Inventory (marketing resources addressed) https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/13965</p> <p>Delta Vision, Delta Voices: The Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000 https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT30930885/PDF</p>	<p>The designation of a primary cultural museum with associated smaller regional museums was not addressed.</p>
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<p>Section 1104d3</p>	<p>Recommendations for improving small, emerging, minority or rural museum access to technical and financial aid.</p>	<p><u>Mississippi Delta Historic Housekeeping Workshop</u> July 1996: Seven one-day historic housekeeping workshops across the seven LMDI states to provide training in architectural and museum collection preservation to rural areas with reduced access to training resources (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p>	<p>Related efforts: Mississippi Delta Historic Housekeeping Workshop</p> <p>PMIS 110137A - National Slave Ship Museum Feasibility Assessment</p> <p>PMIS 118967A - Develop Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Information for Museum Documents</p> <p>PMIS 184609A – Tourism Assessment for Natchez Tour Homes</p> <p>PMIS 194322A – Workshop Series: Disaster Preparedness and Response for Collections Along the Delta</p> <p>PMIS 243210A – Klipsch Heritage Museum-Conduct an Assessment of Water Infiltration and an Archeological Survey Assessment of water infiltration</p>	<p>While many projects have provided financial and technical assistance, no specific recommendations document was developed. A document which makes a series of suggestions for improving Lower Mississippi Delta museum access to technical and financial aid resources would be a great resource to develop and maintain on the LMDI website.</p>
<p>Section 1104d5</p>	<p>Recommendations for improving cultural facility and museum educational programs and establishing new outreach and summer programs for elementary, middle, and secondary schools in the delta region.</p>	<p><u>Delta Education Programs</u> July 1995: Shiloh National Military Park (SHIL) Superintendent Woody Harrell was assigned responsibility for the education/history theme at the Oxford meeting which included delta specific, integrated, educational programs.</p> <p><u>Mississippi Delta Traveling Trunks</u> Oct. 1996: A collection of hands-on educational tools for classroom use on a specific topic. The Lower Mississippi Delta Discovery Trunks will consist of videos, brochures,</p>	<p>Related efforts: Mississippi Delta Traveling Trunks</p> <p>PMIS 128929A - Bayou LaFourche African American Research</p> <p>PMIS 138395A - Experience Louisiana's Culture and Wetlands – Children's Museum Exhibition</p> <p>PMIS 156270A – Central High School National Historic Site Youth Academy</p> <p>PMIS 194620A – Commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation at Fort Donelson National Battlefield</p> <p>PMIS 203589A – Teach At-Risk and Underserved Youth Populations Resilience via Music & Drama</p>	<p>While several projects have worked to improve or develop educational programs or outreach for youth, no specific recommendations document was developed. Nevertheless, the peer reviewed academic literature has reviewed this topic over time and such recommendations likely exist.</p>



		games, and other three-dimensional objects drawn from National Park Service sites in the Lower Mississippi Delta. They will focus on the Delta experience through the exploration of people, places, and change. The contents of the Delta trunks are being purchased and will be assembled and sent to NPS Delta parks in October.	PMIS 243215A – YAP! – Youth Ambassador Program	
Section 1104f1	A plan for a music heritage program with emphasis on the Mississippi Delta Blues that includes recommendations for the creation of a network of heritage sites, structures, small museums, and festivals in the delta region. The sub-component of the plan is listed below.	<p><u>Folkways – Music Program</u> July 1995: ARPO Superintendent Laura Soulliere was assigned responsibility for the folkways theme at the Oxford meeting which included a music program to be handled by Bill Ferries.</p> <p><u>Heritage Study</u> May 1996: The Denver Service Center was chosen to lead the heritage study with support from Robert Belous as the primary LMDI contact.</p> <p>Feb. 1998: Volume 1 was published.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Heritage Study Volume 1, Concept 8 https://archive.org/details/DeltaHeritageVol1</p> <p>Stories of the Delta https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mrdr/mrdr_stories_delta.pdf</p>	
Section 1104f2	An economic strategy for the promotion of the region’s music.		Not addressed	The original heritage study made recommendations for establishing a music heritage program but did not complete an economic strategy.



				The music heritage program was discussed in the Mississippi Delta: Beyond 2000 Report and Inventory but no economic plan was noted there either.
Section 1105a	Provision of technical and financial assistance to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to survey their campuses for historic and prehistoric structures to stabilize, preserve, interpret, and consider for inclusion in a historic designation.	<p><u>Historic Black Colleges Archeology Study</u> July 1995: SHIL Superintendent Woody Harrell was assigned responsibility for the education/history theme at the Oxford meeting which included a historic black colleges archeology study.</p> <p><u>Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex</u> 1997: This project intended to build a center to provide environmental education but also survey earthworks, historic cemeteries, and historic structures at the university site (LMDI, 1997).</p>	<p>Addressed in: Planning Grant for Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex</p> <p>Related efforts: The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program (https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/HBCU/index.html) meets this legislative need. The fund provides assistance for historic preservation efforts on HBCU campuses.</p>	
Section 1105a	A plan including funding to assist historically black colleges and universities to preserve and interpret identified important prehistoric or historic campus	<p><u>Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex</u> 1997: This project intended to build a center to provide environmental education but also survey earthworks, historic cemeteries, and historic structures at the university site (LMDI, 1997).</p>	<p>Addressed in: Planning Grant for Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex</p> <p>Related efforts: The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program (https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/HBCU/index.html) meets this legislative need. The fund provides assistance for historic preservation efforts on HBCU campuses.</p>	



	sites and structures.			
Section 1106a1 Section 1106a4	A feasibility study of establishing a delta antiquities trail or delta antiquities heritage corridor including locating and confirming the existence of the site Balbansha in southern Louisiana and Autiamque in Arkansas if possible.		Not addressed	While several projects addressed the preservation of mounds in Louisiana and Mississippi and driving tours including a driving tour of mound sites in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana, were developed, to our knowledge no feasibility study for establishing a Delta Antiquities Trail or Delta Antiquities Heritage Corridor was completed. In addition the existence of the site Balbansha in southern Louisiana and Autiamque in Arkansas were not confirmed.
Section 1106c	The development of a 10-year plan to stabilize, preserve, and interpret the sites and structures identified for a delta antiquities trail or heritage	<u>Integration/Communication/Marketing</u> July 1995: JELA Superintendent Robert Belous was assigned responsibility for the integration/communication/marketing theme at the Oxford meeting which included developing partnerships and a cooperative agreement.	Addressed in: Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks https://www.worldcat.org/title/ancient-indian-architecture-of-the-lower-mississippi-delta-region-a-study-of-earthworks/oclc/853619535 Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley, Louisiana https://core.tdar.org/document/241536/ancient-earthworks-of-the-ouachita-valley-in-louisiana	While efforts to stabilize, preserve, and interpret sites and structures related to delta antiquities have occurred, a 10-year plan has not been developed. This type of plan is still feasible and would



<p>corridor through cooperative agreements with delta region states, state archeological surveys, and regional archeological centers if needed.</p>	<p><u>Prehistoric Mounds Study</u> June 1995: SEAC initiated the Ancient Indian Architecture study (also called the prehistoric mound study) through a two-day workshop to determine the logistics of the study.</p> <p>July 1995: Gulf Coast Cluster System Support Office (GCSO) Superintendent Paul Hartwig and SEAC were assigned responsibility for the archeology theme at the Oxford meeting. This included the SEAC mound study.</p> <p>Oct. 1995: SEAC Chief John Ehrenhard was assigned lead of the prehistoric mound study.</p> <p>Nov. 1996: The study will be printed and available to the public.</p> <p><u>Earthworks in the Ouachita Valley</u> Oct. 1995: Dr. John Gibson was working on a study of earthworks in the Ouachita Valley. The earthworks study was completed in June 1996 and printed and distributed in August 1996.</p> <p><u>Louisiana Mounds Preservation</u> July 1995: GCSO Superintendent Paul Hartwig and SEAC were assigned responsibility for the archeology</p>	<p>Louisiana Mounds Preservation</p> <p>Mississippi Mounds Preservation</p> <p>Raffman Mounds: Preservation for the Public Concept Plan</p> <p>Anna's Mound Archeological Work</p> <p>Related efforts: Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sero/rasp.pdf</p>	<p>be a good follow-up to the former studies completed.</p>
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	<p>theme at the Oxford meeting. This included the preservation of Louisiana mounds. Roger Kennedy was made responsible for work related to Watson Brake.</p> <p>Oct. 1995: John Jameson, a senior archeologist with the Interagency Archeological Services Division and SEAC was working with the Archeological Conservancy to preserve archeological mounds in Louisiana.</p> <p><u>Mississippi Mounds Preservation</u></p> <p>July 1996: The NPS was meeting with the Archeological Conservancy to identify ways to permanently protect mounds in Mississippi and meeting with Mississippi State Parks to explore potential management alternatives (LMDI, 1997).</p> <p><u>Raffman Mounds: Preservation for the Public</u></p> <p>Aug. 1996: This concept plan discusses ways the Raffman site could be managed if in public ownership. It was to be presented to the owners of Raffman to encourage their donation of the site to a public body.</p> <p><u>Anna's Mound</u></p>		
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		<p>1997: A project to preserve Anna's Mound in Mississippi either through an easement or purchase of the land (LMDI, 1997).</p>		
Section 1107a	<p>The establishment of a program for research, interpretation, and preservation of key historic and archeological resources in the delta. The sub-components of the program are listed below.</p>	<p><u>Brices Cross Roads Protection</u> July 1995: Vicksburg National Military Park (VICK) Superintendent Bill Nichols was assigned work on the Civil War initiative which included the Corinth and Brices Cross Roads at the Oxford meeting.</p> <p>Jan. 1996: A local organization began efforts to purchase additional land known to be part of the Battle of Brices Cross Roads in Lee County, MS for protection (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Civil War Discovery Trail Workbook Pilot Project</u> 1997: A pilot project to identify a civil war site and provide assistance to preserve it and make it a tourism destination (LMDI, 1997). The site would either be a part of the Civil War Discovery Trail or a potential site for the trail (LMDI, 1997).</p>	<p>Addressed in: The Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative grant funding program (https://www.nps.gov/locations/lowermsdeltaregion/about-lmdi.htm)</p>	
Section 1107b1	<p>Identification of historic and archeological resource research projects in the region and a</p>	<p><u>Historic Natchez Conference</u> Jan. 1996: A conference of seven universities was held in Natchez, MS to share current research initiatives in the region as well as archival materials.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Historic Natchez Conference</p> <p>Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks</p>	



	proposal to publish research findings.	1997: NATC began planning for the 1998 Natchez History conference. The conference was expected to have more than 300 university attendees to discuss southern history (LMDI, 1997).	https://www.worldcat.org/title/ancient-indian-architecture-of-the-lower-mississippi-delta-region-a-study-of-earthworks/oclc/853619535 Related efforts: Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sero/rasp.pdf	
Section 1107b2	Creation of a survey program to document and evaluate known historic and archeological sites and structures and suggest those that require further study.	<p><u>Prehistoric Mounds Study</u> June 1995: SEAC initiated the Ancient Indian Architecture study (also called the prehistoric mound study) through a two-day workshop to determine the logistics of the study.</p> <p>July 1995: GCSO Superintendent Paul Hartwig and SEAC were assigned responsibility for the archeology theme at the Oxford meeting. This included the SEAC mound study.</p> <p><u>Earthworks in the Ouachita Valley</u> Oct. 1995: SEAC Chief John Ehrenhard was assigned lead of the prehistoric mound study. Dr. John Gibson was working on a study of earthworks in the Ouachita Valley. The earthworks study was completed in June 1996 and printed and distributed in August 1996.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks https://www.worldcat.org/title/ancient-indian-architecture-of-the-lower-mississippi-delta-region-a-study-of-earthworks/oclc/853619535</p> <p>Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley, Louisiana https://core.tdar.org/document/241536/ancient-earthworks-of-the-ouachita-valley-in-louisiana</p>	
Section 1107b3	Identification of interpretive sites and structures capable of interpreting the	<p><u>Eaker Air Force Base</u> 1993: Thomas Green with the Arkansas Archeological Survey were examining the feasibility of using a part of Eaker Air Force</p>	<p>Addressed in: Mississippi Valley Heritage Center (Proposed at Eaker Air Force Base, Blytheville, AR) https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA390318.pdf</p>	



	<p>historic and archeological resources of the delta.</p>	<p>Base in Mississippi for a heritage and education center.</p> <p>Aug. 1996: NPS began work with the Arkansas state archeologist and the Air Force to create a cultural center at the base and to provide protection for the base's archeological mounds (LMDI, 1996; Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The cultural center was planned to be operational by 1998 (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p>	<p>Related efforts: Rangers and Amtrak: Interpreting Landscapes of the States</p>	
<p>Section 1107b4</p>	<p>Development of educational materials to interpret the historic and archeological resources of the delta region.</p>	<p><u>Delta Education Programs</u> July 1995: SHIL Superintendent Woody Harrell was assigned responsibility for the education/ history theme at the Oxford meeting which included delta specific, integrated, educational programs.</p> <p><u>LMDI Website</u> April 1996: This website provides educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region.</p> <p><u>Campaign & Siege of Vicksburg – MS Guide Brochure</u> April 1995: Mississippi Delta Outreach Education & Preservation Initiative developed a Vicksburg brochure.</p>	<p>Addressed in: Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Website</p> <p>Campaign & Siege of Vicksburg - MS Guide Brochure</p> <p>Civil War on the Mississippi Heritage Corridor Brochure</p> <p>Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail Brochure</p> <p>Living History and Interpretive Programs (St. Martinville & Tangipahoa Parish)</p> <p>Louisiana Mounds: Education Packet</p> <p>Mississippi Delta Mound Poster</p> <p>Interactive CD-ROM on Delta Archeology</p> <p>Louisiana Archeology Week Poster</p> <p>Indian Mounds of Mississippi: A Visitor's Guide</p>	



	<p>July 1995: VICK Superintendent Bill Nichols was assigned work on the Civil War initiative which included the Vicksburg campaign. Kirk Cordell was responsible for the Vicksburg campaign.</p> <p><u>Civil War on the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Brochure</u> Oct. 1996: The brochure shared publicly accessible sites in the seven-state LMDR as well as the social, cultural, and economic factors of the Civil War (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996). The goal of the brochure was to increase heritage tourism in the region and improve economic development (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail Brochure</u> 1997: An Arkansas civil war heritage trail brochure was developed (LMDI, 1997).</p> <p><u>Living History and Interpretive Programs</u> 1997: The goal of the project in St. Martinville, LA was to complete extensive research to recreate the Le Petit Paris time period (LMDI, 1997). The Tangipahoa Parish, LA project entailed the development of a program describing the late</p>	
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	<p>federal period and life for rural Italians in the 19th century (LMDI, 1997).</p> <p><u>Louisiana Mounds: Education Packet</u> Feb. 1996: NPS created an education folder for the three mounds being protected in Louisiana. The packet included a market value appraisal for Watson Brake and artwork for the mounds (Southeast Field Director's Office, 1996).</p> <p><u>Mississippi Delta Mound Poster</u> Mar. 1996: This poster highlights Ancient Indian Architecture in the Delta. The posters have been sent to the seven SHPO offices of the Mississippi Delta as well as some Native American groups for distribution to the public.</p> <p><u>Interactive CD-ROM on Delta Archeology</u> Dec. 1996: Work on the interactive (CD-ROM) program on archeology in the LMDR is 80% complete and will be ready for use in parks and state welcome centers by the end of December 1996.</p> <p><u>Louisiana Archeology Week Poster</u> May 1996: SEAC prepared the poster for Louisiana Archaeology</p>		
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		<p>Week which occurred September 29 - October 5, 1996.</p> <p><u>Indian Mounds of Mississippi: A Visitor's Guide</u> 1997: A four-part brochure on Indian Mounds of the Mississippi including a short introduction to the project; a chronology and cultural context of Mississippi Indian Mounds; the location of eleven publicly accessible mound sites and a brief synopsis of available archaeological and historic information for each of them; and a short section on learning more and getting involved.</p>		
<p>Section 1107b5</p>	<p>Preparation of reports and maps based on the study of historic and archeological sites, structures, and artifacts in the delta region.</p>	<p><u>Prehistoric Mounds Study</u> June 1995: SEAC initiated the Ancient Indian Architecture study (also called the prehistoric mound study) through a two-day workshop to determine the logistics of the study.</p> <p>July 1995: GCSO Superintendent Paul Hartwig and SEAC were assigned responsibility for the archeology theme at the Oxford meeting. This included the SEAC mound study.</p> <p><u>Earthworks in the Ouachita Valley</u> Oct. 1995: SEAC Chief John Ehrenhard was assigned lead of the prehistoric mound study. Dr. John Gibson was working on a</p>	<p>Addressed in: Ancient Indian Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region: A Study of Earthworks https://www.worldcat.org/title/ancient-indian-architecture-of-the-lower-mississippi-delta-region-a-study-of-earthworks/oclc/853619535</p> <p>Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley, Louisiana https://core.tdar.org/document/241536/ancient-earthworks-of-the-ouachita-valley-in-louisiana</p> <p>Interactive, Internet-Based Geographic Information System for the Arkansas Post/Three Rivers Region</p> <p>Related efforts: Regionwide Archeological Survey Plan https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sero/rasp.pdf</p>	



		<p>study of earthworks in the Ouachita Valley. The earthworks study was completed in June 1996 and printed and distributed in August 1996.</p> <p><u>GIS Data Collection and Sharing</u></p> <p>April 1996: A pilot project was developed between the National Park Service and federal, state, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations to share GIS data specific to Mississippi.</p> <p>1997: A project to document Arkansas's natural and cultural resources and heritage, and changes over time through GIS.</p>		
Section 1107d	A demonstration project for curating and conserving archeological accounts and collections within federal and state agencies in the delta region.		Not addressed	There is no indication other than plans in the early years of LMDI that the demonstration project was completed. Since time has passed the value of this project to federal and state agencies in the region should be assessed prior to proceeding.



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC LAW 103-433 TITLE XI—LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION INITIATIVES

TITLE XI—LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION INITIATIVES

SEC. 1101. FINDINGS.

(a) The Congress finds that—

- (1) in 1988, Congress enacted Public Law 100–460, establishing the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, to assess the needs, problems, and opportunities of people living in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region that includes 219 counties and parishes within the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee;
- (2) the Commission conducted a thorough investigation to assess these needs, problems, and opportunities, and held several public hearings throughout the Delta Region;
- (3) on the basis of these investigations, the Commission issued the Delta Initiatives Report, which included recommendations on natural resource protection, historic preservation, and the enhancement of educational and other opportunities for Delta residents;
- (4) the Delta Initiatives Report recommended—
 - (A) designating the Great River Road as a scenic byway, and designating other hiking and motorized trails throughout the Delta Region;
 - (B) that the Federal Government identify sites and structures of historic and prehistoric importance throughout the Delta Region;
 - (C) the further study of potential new units of the National Park System within the Delta Region; and
 - (D) that Federal agencies target more monies in selected areas to institutions of higher education in the Delta Region, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

SEC. 1102. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title, the term—

- (1) “Commission” means the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission established pursuant to Public Law 100–460;
- (2) “Delta Initiatives Report” means the May 14, 1990 Final Report of the Commission entitled “The Delta Initiatives: Realizing the Dream . . . Fulfilling the Potential”;
- (3) “Delta Region” means the Lower Mississippi Delta Region including the 219 counties and parishes within the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, as defined in the Delta Initiatives Report, except that, for any State for which the Delta Region as defined in such report comprises more than half of the geographic area of such State, the entire State shall be considered part of the Delta Region for purposes of this title;



- (4) “Department” means the United States Department of the Interior, unless otherwise specifically stated;
- (5) “Historically Black College or University” means a college or university that would be considered a “part B institution” by section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2));
- (6) “minority college or university” means a Historically Black College or University that would be considered a “part B institution” by section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)) or a “minority institution” as that term is defined in section 1046 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1135d–5(3));
- (7) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, unless otherwise specifically stated.

SEC. 1103. LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION HERITAGE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the States of the Delta Region, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, and other appropriate Delta Region institutions, is directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress within three years after the date of the enactment of this title, a study of significant natural, recreational, historical or prehistorical, and cultural lands, waters, sites, and structures located within the Delta Region. This study shall take into consideration the research and inventory of resources conducted by the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Study Commission.

(b) TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.—

- (1) The study shall include recommendations on appropriate designation and interpretation of historically significant roads, trails, byways, waterways, or other routes within the Delta Region.
- (2) In order to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, interpretation, and enjoyment of the significant sites identified pursuant to subsection (a), which are accessible by public roads, the Secretary shall recommend in the study vehicular tour routes along existing public roads linking such sites within the Delta Region.
- (3) Such recommendations shall include an analysis of designating the Great River Road (as depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Delta Transportation Network” on pages 102–103 of the Delta Initiatives Report) and other sections of the Great River Road between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana and an analysis of designating that portion of the Old Antonio Road and the Louisiana Natchez Trace which extends generally along Highway 84 from Vidalia, Louisiana, to Clarence, Louisiana, and Louisiana Highway 6 from Clarence, Louisiana, to the Toledo Bend Reservoir, Louisiana, as a National Scenic Byway, or as a component of the National Trails System, or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.
- (4) The Secretary shall also recommend in the study an appropriate route along existing public roads to commemorate the importance of timber production and trade to the economic development of the Delta Region in



the early twentieth century, and to highlight the continuing importance of timber production and trade to the economic life of the Delta Region. Recommendations shall include an analysis of designating that portion of US 165 which extends from Alexandria, Louisiana, to Monroe, Louisiana, as a National Scenic Byway, or as a component of the National Trails System, or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(5) The study shall also include a comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan for the routes described in the above paragraphs, including bicycle and hiking paths, and make specific recommendations for the acquisition and construction or related interpretive and visitor information facilities at selected sites along such routes.

(6) The Secretary is authorized to make grants to States for work necessary to stabilize, maintain, and widen public roads to allow for adequate access to the nationally significant sites and structures identified by the study, to allow for proper use of the vehicular tour route, trails, byways, including the routes defined in paragraphs (3) and (4) or other public roads within the Delta Region and to implement the comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan required in paragraph (5).

(c) LISTING.—On the basis of the study, and in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Secretary shall inventory significant structures and sites in the Delta Region. The Secretary shall further recommend and encourage cooperative preservation and economic development efforts such as the establishment of preservation districts linking groups of contiguous counties or parishes, especially those that lie along the aforementioned designated routes. The Secretary shall prepare a list of the sites and structures for possible inclusion by the National Park Service as National Historic Landmarks or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.

SEC. 1104. DELTA REGION HERITAGE CORRIDORS AND HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) in 1990, the Congress authorized the Institute of Museum Services to prepare a report assessing the needs of small, emerging, minority, and rural museums in order to identify the resources such museums needed to meet their educational mission, to identify the areas of museum operation in which the needs were greatest, and to make recommendations on how these needs could best be met;

(2) the Institute of Museum Services undertook a comprehensive eighteen month study of such needs with the assistance of two advisory groups, surveyed 524 museums from throughout the Nation, held discussion groups in which representatives of 25 museum groups participated, and conducted case studies of 12 museum facilities around the Nation;

(3) on the basis of this assessment, the Institute of Museum Services issued a report in September, 1992, entitled, “National Needs Assessment



of Small, Emerging, Minority and Rural Museums in the United States” (hereinafter “National Needs Assessment”) which found that small, emerging, minority, and rural museums provide valuable educational and cultural resources for their communities and contain a reservoir of the Nation’s material, cultural and historical heritage, but due to inadequate resources are unable to meet their full potential or the demands of the surrounding communities;

(4) the needs of these institutions are not being met through existing Federal programs;

(5) fewer than half of the participants in the survey had applied for Federal assistance in the past two years and that many small, emerging, minority and rural museums believe existing Federal programs do not meet their needs;

(6) based on the National Needs Assessment, that funding agencies should increase support available to small, emerging, minority, and rural museums and make specific recommendations for increasing technical assistance in order to identify such institutions and provide assistance to facilitate their participation in Federal programs;

(7) the Delta Initiatives Report made specific recommendations for the creation and development of centers for the preservation of the cultural, historical, and literary heritage of the Delta Region, including recommendations for the establishment of a Delta Region Native American Heritage and Cultural Center and a Delta Region African American Heritage and Cultural Center with additional satellite centers or museums linked throughout the Delta Region;

(8) the Delta Initiatives Report stated that new ways of coordinating, preserving, and promoting the Delta Region’s literature, art, and music should be established including the creation of a network to promote the Delta Region’s literary, artistic, and musical heritage; and

(9) wholesale destruction and attrition of archeological sites and structures has eliminated a significant portion of Native American heritage as well as the interpretive potential of the Delta Region’s parks and museums.

Furthermore, site and structure destruction is so severe that an ambitious program of site and structure acquisition in the Delta Region is necessary.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the States of the Delta Region, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Director of the Smithsonian Institution, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and appropriate African American, Native American and other relevant institutions or organizations in the Delta Region, is further directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress a plan outlining specific recommendations, including recommendations for necessary funding, for the establishment of a Delta Region Native American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center and a Delta Region African American Heritage Corridor and Heritage Cultural Center with a network of satellite or cooperative units.



(c) DELTA REGION NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND CULTURAL CENTER.—

(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a network of parks, museums, and other centers to interpret Native American culture and heritage in the Delta Region, including a ten year development strategy for such a network.

(2) Such plan shall include specific proposals for the development of a Native American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center in the Delta Region, along with recommendations for the appropriate Federal role in such a center including matching grants, technical and interpretive assistance.

(3) Such plan shall be conducted in consultation with tribal leaders in the Delta Region.

(4) Such plan shall also include specific proposals for educational and training assistance for Delta Region Native Americans to carry out the recommendations provided in the study.

(d) DELTA REGION AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER.—

(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a heritage corridor or trail system, consisting of one or two major north-south routes and several east-west-spur loops to preserve, interpret and commemorate the African American heritage and culture in the Delta Region during all significant historical periods.

(2) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for representing all forms of expressive culture including the musical, folklore, literary, artistic, scientific, historical, educational, and political contributions and accomplishments of African Americans in the Delta Region.

(3) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for implementing the findings of the Delta Initiatives Report with respect to establishing an African American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center and related satellite museums in the Delta Region, together with specific funding levels necessary to carry out these recommendations and shall also include recommendations for improving access of small, emerging, minority or rural museums to technical and financial assistance.

(4) Such plan shall be conducted in consultation with institutions of higher education in the Delta Region with expertise in African American studies, Southern studies, archeology, anthropology, history and other relevant fields.

(5) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for improving educational programs offered by existing cultural facilities and museums as well as establishing new outreach programs for elementary, middle and secondary schools, including summer programs for youth in the Delta Region.

(e) GRANTS.—



(1) In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to make planning grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region to assist small, emerging, minority and rural museums selected on a financial needs basis in the development of a comprehensive long term plan for these institutions. The Secretary is also authorized to make implementation grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region who, in consultations with State Museum Associations, shall make grants to small, emerging, minority or rural museums for the purpose of carrying out an approved plan for training personnel, improving exhibits or other steps necessary to assure the integrity of collections in their facilities, for educational outreach programs, or for other activities the Secretary deems appropriate including the promotion of tourism in the region. Such institutions shall be selected competitively and on the basis of demonstrated financial need. The Secretary is also authorized to make grants to State Humanities Councils to update, simplify and coordinate the respective State Works Progress Administration guides and to develop a single comprehensive guide for the Delta Region.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to provide grants and other appropriate technical assistance to State Humanities Councils, State Museum Associations, and State Arts Councils in the Delta Region for the purpose of assessing the needs of such institutions. Such grants may be used by these institutions to undertake such an assessment and to provide other technical, administrative and planning assistance to small, emerging, minority or rural institutions seeking to preserve the Delta Region's literary, artistic, and musical heritage.

(f) MUSIC HERITAGE PROGRAM.—

(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a Music Heritage Program, with specific emphasis on the Mississippi Delta Blues. The plan shall include specific recommendations for developing a network of heritage sites, structures, small museums, and festivals in the Delta Region.

(2) The plan shall include an economic strategy for the promotion of the Delta Region's music, through the participation of musicians, festival developers, museum operators, universities, economic development districts, and other relevant individuals and organizations.

(g) COMPLETION DATE.—The plan authorized in this section shall be completed not later than three years after the date funds are made available for such plan.

SEC. 1105. HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC STRUCTURES AND SITES SURVEY.

(a) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to undertake a comprehensive survey of historic and prehistoric structures and sites located on their campuses, including recommendations as to the inclusion of appropriate structures and sites on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as National Historic Landmarks, or other appropriate designation as determined by



the Secretary. The Secretary shall also make specific proposals and recommendations, together with estimates of necessary funding levels, for a comprehensive plan to be carried out by the Department to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures.

(b) GRANTS.—In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for stabilization, preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures.

SEC. 1106. DELTA ANTIQUITIES SURVEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Secretary is directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress, in cooperation with the States of the Delta Region, State Archaeological Surveys and Regional Archeological Centers, a study of the feasibility of establishing a Delta Antiquities Trail or Delta Antiquities Heritage Corridor in the Delta Region.

(2) Such study shall, to the extent practicable, use nonintrusive methods of identifying, surveying, inventorying, and stabilizing ancient archeological sites and structures.

(3) In undertaking this study, the Secretary is directed to enter into cooperative agreements with the States of the Delta Region, the State Archeological Surveys, and Regional Archeological Centers located in Delta Region institutions of higher education for on-site activities including surveys, inventories, and stabilization and other activities which the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) In addition to the over 100 known ancient archeological sites located in the Delta Region including Watson's Brake, Frenchman's Bend, Hedgepeth, Monte Sano, Banana Bayou, Hornsby, Parkin, Toltec, Menard-Hodges, Eaker, Blytheville Mound, Nodena, Taylor Mounds, DeSoto Mound and others, such study shall also employ every practical means possible, including assistance from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers of the Department of Defense, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to locate and confirm the existence of a site known as Balbansha in southern Louisiana and a site known as Autiamque in Arkansas. The heads of these Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Secretary as the Secretary requires on a non-reimbursable basis.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance and grants to private landowners for necessary stabilization activities of identified sites and for preparing recommendations for designating such sites as National Landmarks or other appropriate designations as the Secretary, with the concurrence of the landowners, determines to be appropriate.



(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the States, State Archeological Surveys, and Regional Archeological Centers of the Delta Region to develop a ten-year plan for the stabilization, preservation and interpretation of those sites and structures as may be identified by the Secretary.

SEC. 1107. HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive program for the research, interpretation, and preservation of significant historic and archeological resources in the Delta Region.

(b) ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.—The program shall include, but not be limited to—

- (1) identification of research projects related to historic and archeological resources in the Delta Region and a proposal for the regular publication of related research materials and publications;
- (2) the development of a survey program to investigate, inventory and further evaluate known historic and archeological sites and structures and identify those sites and structures that require additional study;
- (3) identification of a core system of interpretive sites and structures that would provide a comprehensive overview of historic and archeological resources of the Delta Region;
- (4) preparation of educational materials to interpret the historical and archeological resources of the Delta Region;
- (5) preparation of surveys and archeological and historical investigations of sites, structures, and artifacts relating to the Delta Region, including the preparation of reports, maps, and other related activities.

(c) GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

- (1) The Secretary is authorized to award grants to qualified tribal, governmental and non-governmental entities and individuals to assist the Secretary in carrying out those elements of the program which the Secretary deems appropriate.
- (2) The Secretary is further authorized to award grants and provide other types of technical and financial assistance to such entities and individuals to conserve and protect historic and archeological sites and structures in the Delta Region identified in the program prepared pursuant to this section.

(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Secretary shall establish a national demonstration project for the conservation and curation of the archeological records and collections of Federal and State management agencies in the Delta Region.

SEC. 1108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.



APPENDIX C: LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA INITIATIVE OFFICIAL CHARTER AND BYLAWS AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Official Charter of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives (LMDI)

Revised August 12, 2015

ARTICLE 1

Name

The name shall be the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative Board of Directors (hereinafter designated as the Board).

ARTICLE II

Jurisdiction

The Board shall be limited to representatives from the National Park Service parks located within the geographic area of the Lower Mississippi Delta as defined in Public Law 103-433 Title X – Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives (hereafter designated as the Law). These parks include: Arkansas Post National Memorial; Buffalo National River; Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area; Central High School National Historic Site; Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Fort Smith National Memorial; Gulf Islands National Seashore (Mississippi Unit); Hot Springs National Park; Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve; Jefferson National Expansion Memorial; Natchez National Historical Park; Natchez Trace Parkway; New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park; Ozark National Scenic Riverways; Pea Ridge National Military Park; President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site; Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site; Shiloh National Military Park; and Vicksburg National Military Park.

ARTICLE III

Objectives



The objectives and purpose of the Board shall coincide with the objectives and purposes of the Law. The general objective of the Board is to advise the Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service on matters pertaining to the Law specifically as it relates to prioritizing funding requests to implement the Law.

ARTICLE IV

Board Relationships

Section 1. The Board operates under delegated authority from the Regional Director. It is governed by the provisions of its CHARTER and BYLAWS. The Southeast Regional Director has designated the Southeast Region Chief, Cultural Resources Division, (hereafter designated as Chief) to be his representative in working with the Board. The Chief may redelegate this responsibility.

Section 2. The Charter shall be placed in the custody of the Board Chair with a duplicate copy kept on file at the Chief's office.

Section 3. Any conflict requiring an interpretation of the provisions of the Charter shall be resolved by the Board.

Section 4. The responsibility for determining Board policy is set out in the BYLAWS of the Board. The Board may designate a spokesperson to represent the Board in carrying out such policies but no person shall presume to speak for the Board on matters of Board policy without appropriate authorization.

Section 5. No financial action shall be considered for obligation without approval of the Southeast Regional Director or the Chief.

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1. Members of the Board shall be Superintendents or their designee who represent LMDI park units and who have substantial interests in LMDI functions.

Section 2. Any qualified person becomes a member of the Board upon notice from an LMDI park superintendent that the person represents the park for purposes of serving on the Board.

ARTICLE VI

Voting



Section 1. The Board member representing each park listed in Article II is entitled to one vote on any matter of LMDI business. Board members from parks that oversee more than one national park unit are still limited to one vote.

Section 2. Eligible regional programs and archeological centers may submit projects for LMDI funding consideration, and may participate in Board discussions, but are not eligible to vote on Board business.

ARTICLE VII

Administration

Section 1. The Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from member superintendents. The Chair administers the affairs of the Board in accordance with its objectives, and as further defined in the BYLAWS of the Board.

Section 2. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be voting members of the Board.

Section 3. The Chief will be a non-voting member of the Board. Southeast Regional Office program representatives may attend Board meetings but will be non-voting participants.

Section 5. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected for two year terms. Terms of Office shall begin at the close of the Board's Annual Meeting.

Section 6. The BYLAWS of the Section shall provide for the establishment of committees and other administrative posts as may be considered essential for administration of the affairs of the Board.

Section 7. Vacancies occurring in an elective office or an appointive post shall be filled in accordance with provisions set out in the BYLAWS of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII

Election Procedures

Section 1. Nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be made at the Annual Meeting with voting occurring during the meeting.

Section 2. The polling of the membership shall be done by secret ballot with provisions for write-in candidates. Other matters governing polling procedures shall be set out in the BYLAWS of the Board.

ARTICLE IX

Meetings



The Board shall hold at least one meeting each calendar year which shall be designated as the Annual Meeting of the Board. Meetings of the Board shall be held at such time and place as may be provided for in the BYLAWS of the Board.

ARTICLE X

Section Bylaws and Rules

Section 1. The BYLAWS of the Section shall be adopted by the voting membership of the Board before they become effective. A BYLAW is adopted, rejected, or amended on the basis of a majority of the votes cast on the issue designated in a particular poll.

Section 2. RULES for handling administrative matters may be promulgated by the Chair, and as, provided for in the BYLAWS.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments to the Charter are approved by the Board.

ARTICLE XII

Attestations

The signed Charter shall be construed as evidence that the Southeast Regional Director approves of the establishment of the Board with its previously stated objectives and functions.

Southeast Regional Director

Date



Official Bylaws of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives (LMDI)

Revised August 12, 2015

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization shall be the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Board of Directors (hereinafter designated as the Board).

ARTICLE II

Objectives

Section 1 The primary objective of the Board is to advise the National Park Service Southeast Regional Director on matters pertaining to implementing Public Law 103-433, Title X –Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiative.

Section 2 The objectives of the Board shall be accomplished through Annual Meetings.

Section 3 To further the objectives given in the CHARTER, the Board shall:

- a. Hold meetings for the presentation and discussion of topics and issues relating to LMDI activities.
- b. Provide decisional and other information to the Chief for presentation to the Regional Director including an annual list of recommended projects for LMDI funding in priority order.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Members of the Board shall be Superintendents who are representatives of the LMDI park units and who have substantial interests in LMDI functions. Superintendents may send a designee to represent the park at the annual board meeting. The designee shall have the park's voting authority.



Section 2. The Board serves as the Committee on Admissions and is responsible for determining acceptability of a new potential member.

Section 3. The Board may confer non-voting membership on any person whose personal contribution to the advancement of the LMDI is particularly worthy. Persons so honored shall receive program announcements of Board activities but they shall have no vote and the honorary membership may be terminated at any time by the Board.

Section 4. Membership in the Board ceases when the member is not longer associated with an LMDI park unit.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1 The officers of the Board are a Chair and Vice-Chair. The officers shall be persons who are members of the Board in good standing.

Section 2 The Chair is the presiding officer of the Board and as such is responsible for the overall administration of Board affairs.

Section 3 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be chosen by vote of the membership for a term of two years. At the conclusion of the Chair's term, the Vice-Chair automatically becomes the Chair and a new Vice-Chair is selected.

Section 4 The Vice-Chair shall oversee the keeping of records of all transactions and meetings of the Board with assistance from the Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office (hereafter designated as Chief). The Chief shall place all records of Board transactions and meetings on the SER CRD Sharepoint (or an appropriate successor site) to ensure that all documents are accessible to Board members. The Chief also shall carry out correspondence for the Board as directed by the Chair, including preparation of all ballots used in election, amending Board procedures, maintaining an accurate mailing list of the membership, maintaining Board procedures and BYLAWS, compiling a list of eligible projects for funding for the Annual Meeting and presenting the Board's recommended list of projects to the Regional Director each year for approval.

Section 5 An office shall be declared vacant by the Board in the event an officer is not longer eligible to participate as a member of the Board or is unable to serve in that office for personal or work reasons. Vacated offices will be filled by the Board by appointment until the vacated office can be filled by an election. Vacated offices may be filled by special election or as part of an annual election, at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE V

Meetings of the Board



Section 1 The Board shall hold an Annual Meeting of the Board each fiscal year, no later than September 30. Other meetings of the Board may be called at the discretion of the Chair. A petition directed to the Board bearing the signatures of at least 25 percent (25%) of the Board members shall require a meeting of the Board to be called.

Section 2 Notification of date, time and place of all meetings of the Board shall be given to members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3 A quorum at a Board meeting for voting purposes shall consist of 50 percent (50%) of the Board membership or 5 qualified voters, whichever is less.

Section 4 Board meetings are open to all Board members and the Chief. Others who are not members of the Board may attend all regular meetings of the Board as nonvoting guests of a voting member. The Chief may bring Southeast Regional Office program representatives to the meeting to present projects for the Board's consideration or to participate in administrative discussions.

Section 5 Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary procedure guide for all meetings unless specifically designated otherwise.

ARTICLE VI

Committees and Appointments

Section 1 The Chair shall appoint with the approval of the Board, individuals and/or committees to assist the officers, Board and other groups within the Board in the development and administration of Board affairs.

Section 2 Any member of the Board shall be eligible to serve on a committee. In all cases, the membership of standing committees is subject to approval by the Board.

Section 3 All committees shall be responsible for keeping records of the activities of the committee and shall submit such records to the Vice-Chair of the Board.

ARTICLE VII

Tenure, Vacancies and Election Procedures

Section 1 A new Board Term begins with the close of each Annual Meeting of the Board.

Section 2 The term of office for an elective office shall be as defined elsewhere in the BYLAWS of the Board. Such officeholders remain in office until a successor has been selected and installed in the office. However, no person may succeed oneself in an elective office unless that person is filling out an unexpired term for another.



Section 3 A vacancy occurs in an office, whether appointive or elective, when (i) the officeholder resigns from office, (ii) the officeholder ceases to function in the office because of death or other circumstances, or (iii) the term of office expires.

Section 4 In the event of a vacancy in an appointive office, the vacancy is filled in accordance with procedures governing appointments.

Section 5 In the event of a vacancy which creates an unexpired term in the Vice-Chair, the Chair may make an appointment to hold through the next Annual Meeting of the Board at which time the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the membership under the regular election procedure. When the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair assumes the duties of the Chair, but retains the title of Vice-Chair.

Section 6 The regular election procedure by which a vote of the membership is taken shall be as follows:

- a. Nominations for all elective positions shall be made by Board members during the Annual Meeting.
- b. Voting shall be by secret ballot during the Annual meeting of the Board.

A majority of the voting membership is required to elect or amend. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by the Chief.

ARTICLE VIII

Financial

Section 1 The Chief will be responsible to track and manage Board recommended and Regional Director approved funding awards and provide any required reports on LMDI activities.

Section 2 The Chief may retain no more than 5% of the annual appropriation for the LMDI for administrative expenses. These administrative funds will be used to cover all national and Southeast Regional budget assessments and program administrative costs such as LMDI related travel.

Section 3 The Board will evaluate all PMIS entered projects marked LOMI in the appropriate fiscal year and recommend projects for funding to the Southeast Regional Director. Projects must be endorsed by a LMDI park or a Southeast or Midwest Regional Office program and must be directly related to the purposes of the LMDI.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments



Section 1 Amendments to the BYLAWS may be proposed in the form of a motion by any member in good standing at any meeting of the Board where a quorum is present.

Section 2 A motion covering a proposal to amend the BYLAWS shall require, as determined by a standing vote, the approval of a majority of the membership present at the meeting at which the motion is presented.

Section 3 The Board may vote on adoption of the amendment at that same Annual Meeting or use a mail or e-mail vote process following the Annual meeting to determine the Board's decision on the proposed amendment.

END OF BYLAWS



September 12, 2018
(Latest Update)

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA INITIATIVE FUNDING PROCESS

Public Law 103-433, dated October 31, 1994, entitled, "Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives" is the authorization for the National Park Service's administration of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI) program. The Act established a comprehensive program to preserve the region's cultural and natural resources and to enhance heritage tourism. The National Park Service (NPS) Southeast Regional Director (RD) has been delegated authority for management of the LMDI program.

PL 103-433 authorizes the awarding of funds to qualified tribal, governmental and non-governmental entities to assist in carrying out the LMDI program. The RD has determined that the monies appropriated by Congress for administration of the LMDI program will be awarded to projects that further the purpose of the legislation. All funding will be awarded to National Park Service units and SERO Programs with emphasis in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR). LMDR park units and SERO Programs may request funding for non-NPS projects. The Act authorizes the awarding of funds to qualified tribal, governmental and non-governmental entities to assist in carrying out the LMDI program. The RD has further determined that a Board of Directors (Board) made up of LMDR park superintendents or their representatives will assist in the administration of the program and will make formal recommendation to the RD on allocation of funds.

The following National Park Service units are eligible for LMDI funds:

1. Arkansas Post National Memorial;
2. Buffalo National River;
3. Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area;
4. Central High School National Historic Site;
5. Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Fort Smith National Memorial;
6. Gateway Arch National Park;
7. Gulf Islands National Seashore (Mississippi Unit);
8. Hot Springs National Park;
9. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve;
10. Natchez National Historical Park;
11. Natchez Trace Parkway;
12. New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park;
13. Ozark National Scenic Riverways;
14. Pea Ridge National Military Park;
15. Shiloh National Military Park;
16. Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park;



17. Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site;
18. Vicksburg National Military Park; and
19. President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site.
20. The Interior Regions 2, 3, and 4 (legacy Southeast and Midwest Regional Offices) and the Southeast and Midwest Archeological Centers may also receive funding for eligible activities in the Delta and participate in the annual Board meeting as non-voting members.

Eligibility

All projects must be related to the purpose for which PL 103-433 was enacted. Projects must preserve cultural resources, natural resources, cultural heritage, or enhance heritage tourism in the LMDR.

Approval Process

1. LMDR park units, eligible regional programs, and archeological centers will develop project statements for each project to be considered for funding and enter those statements into PMIS using the "LOMI" designation. Projects must be entered into PMIS by July 31 of each year. The project title in PMIS should begin with the sponsoring park's acronym (for example, "CARI" or "NATR"). As a general rule, projects should not exceed \$25,000. Projects may have two phases but the total amount of the two phases should not exceed \$35,000. The total project cost must be included in the PMIS statement. Parks must prioritize their projects and submit the priority list to the Chair. Parks may submit the same, or substantially similar, projects with the same partner for not more than 2 years, unless the park provides a compelling reason for needing additional time to support the project.
2. As a general rule, to ensure wide distribution of LMDI monies, a park unit or SERO Program may not submit more than three (3) projects for funding in any fiscal year.
3. The Chief will compile the park requests. The park Superintendent or park designee will present the projects to the LMDI Board of Directors in an annual meeting established and run by the Board. SERO Program representatives may participate in the meeting as determined by the Board.
4. Parks must provide timely project update or completion reports in PMIS. Failure to provide update or completion reports before the annual meeting of the Board of Directors may disqualify the park from competing for funding in the next fiscal year.
5. The Chief in consultation with the Board of Directors may retain an administrative amount NTE 5% of the LMDI allotment for costs such as any assessments to the program, travel for invited guests and SERO staff member(s) to the annual meeting,



and pay for services (Agreement Technical Representative, Administrative Officer, Content Management Software Author).

6. The Board will establish the methodology used for prioritizing the projects and participate in the selection process. The Board will prioritize the projects that will be presented to the RD for consideration and approval.
7. The Chief will notify the LMDR parks as to which projects the RD has approved for funding. The Chief also will also provide the Administrative Service Unit (West) Major Acquisition Buying Office a list of approved projects.
8. Parks have until September 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds have been awarded to expend or obligate the grant monies. It is a superintendent's and Program leader's responsibility to notify the Chief and the Southeast Regional Comptroller as soon in the fiscal year as possible, but no later than July 15, if they will be unable to expend or obligate the grant monies by September 30. The Chief and the Board Chair will coordinate, in consultation with the LMDI Board, to reallocate the returned monies.
9. Standard language on Section 106 and NEPA compliance shall be imputed in every PMIS project standard language as follows:

Funding

Parks and Programs may pass through funding to non-NPS entities to undertake approved projects. For grant and cooperative agreements, it is the responsibility of the park superintendent and Program leader to meet all Federal grant-in-aid requirements as specified by the appropriate agreements officer.



APPENDIX D: GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING AND PRIORITIZING LMDI PROJECTS (2019)

Guidelines for Accepting and Prioritizing LMDI Projects

For complete information concerning LMDI proposals, please see the Standard Operating Procedures. They can be accessed at:
<http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/SER/CRD/LMDI>

Projects **must direct** assistance to partnership entities such as state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, non-profit corporations, preservation organizations, and grassroots community groups. Projects will rank higher if they have a 50% or greater partner match.

It is desirable to have a wide geographic and thematic distribution of projects throughout the Lower Mississippi Delta Region.

The following Guidelines are intended to assist reviewers decide which LMDI projects should be recommended for funding each Fiscal Year.

All projects submitted for consideration must be related to the purposes of the legislation (**Public Law 103-433, Title XI, Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives**). The relevant section of the law should be cited clearly in the “Justification” section of the PMIS submittal.

Guidelines for Accepting Projects:

1. Projects must occur within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (see Map).
2. Public Roads and Visitor Use Plan: Project addresses public roads and visitor use plans and interpretive additions to public ways. Important routes include the Great River Road, Old Antonio Road, Louisiana Natchez Trace, and segments of Louisiana Highway 6. These projects are typically accomplished as procurements.
3. Museums - Planning, Implementation, Education, and Collection Integrity: Project addresses museum planning, implementation, education and collection integrity for long-range museum planning, “implementation grants” to these councils for enhancing collection integrity and offering educational outreach programs, and grants to these councils for assessing museum needs.
4. HBCUs – Surveys: Project addresses financial assistance to HBCUs for surveys, including efforts to designate historic and archeological sites for the National Register of Historic Places or as National Historic Landmarks.



5. HBCUs – Stabilize, Preserve and Interpret: Project addresses provision of technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for stabilization, preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures.
6. Archeological Sites on Private Land: Project addresses grants to private landowners for stabilizing archeological sites on private lands as allowed under P. L. 103-433 §1106(b) or for designating such sites for inclusion as National Landmarks or other appropriate designations.
7. Archeological Sites and Historic Structures: Project addresses grants to qualified recipients for carrying out a program for research, interpretation, and preservation of significant historic and archeological resources of the Delta Region as allowed under P. L. 103-433 §1107 (c)(1).
8. Archeological Sites and Historic Structures: Project addresses grants to qualified recipients for conserving and protecting archaeological sites and structures in the Delta Region as allowed under P. L. 103-433 §1107 (c)(2).

Guidelines for Prioritizing Projects

1. A project that results directly in increased heritage tourism within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR);
2. A product that enhances a visitor's understanding of the LMDR nationally significant stories;
3. A project that preserves a natural, cultural, or recreational resource; e.g. preservation of a structure or an object that has public visitation;
4. A project that adds to the knowledge base concerning a cultural, natural, or recreational resource or provides useful contextual information for a resource. Information needs to be readily available and/or provided to the public.
5. To ensure wide distribution of LMDI monies, a park unit or program sponsor may not submit more than three (3) projects for funding in any fiscal year, and only one (1) project may be over \$25,000.
6. For FY20 only, there will be wide latitude for project costs. No project may be submitted that costs more than \$45,000 in a single year. Projects proposals below \$25,000 shall be prioritized preferentially. Project proposals over \$25,000 should include an explanation of how the project could be carried out with a lesser funding amount.

DRAFT Revised 10/25/2019



APPENDIX E: MISSING DOCUMENTATION BY PROGRAM YEAR

Table 63: Missing Documentation by Program Year

x = complete record available; o = partial record available; highlight = no information available

Year	Program Management	Program Activities	Program Deliverables	Annual Meeting
1995	x	x	x	o
1996	x	x	x	
1997	x	x	x	o
1998	x		x	
1999			x	
2000	x		x	
2001	x		x	
2002	x			
2003	x	x		x
2004	x	x		
2005	x	x		
2006	x	x		o
2007	x	x		o
2008	x	x		o
2009	x	x		o
2010	x	x		
2011	x	x		
2012	x	x		x
2013	x	x		o
2014	x	x		
2015	x	x	x	o
2016	x	x	x	o
2017	x	x	x	o
2018	x	x		x
2019	x	x		x



APPENDIX F: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW CONSENT SCRIPT

My name is Gina Depper/Nona Henderson and I am an Assistant Research Scientist/Research Associate for the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University. I am conducting research on the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative to be able to better guide the program into its future.

This research will be reported to the Cultural Resource Program at the Southeast Regional Office and the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative Advisory Board of the National Park Service. Your participation will involve one informal interview that will last approximately 30 minutes.

This research has no known risks. This research will benefit the National Park Service through understanding the operation of the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative to improve its functioning.

Please know that I will do everything I can to protect your privacy. Your identity will not be disclosed in any report that results from the study. Notes that are taken during the interview will be stored in a secure location.

I would like to audiotape the interview so that I can remember what was said. Saying no to audio recording will have no effect on the interview. The audio recording will be destroyed at the conclusion of the research project, in December of 2020. The recording will be stored in a secure location until this time. Would it be all right if I audiotaped our interview?



APPENDIX G: INFORMAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When did you first engage with this program?
2. How did you learn about the program when became involved?
 - a. Did you have any formal onboarding or training?
 - b. What did your onboarding or training cover?
3. Do you track the amount of time spent on program work?
 - a. Approximately how much time per year do you spend in your engagement in this program?
4. How do you communicate about the program with other involved NPS units?
5. How do you share information about the program with community partners?
6. What do you see as the most beneficial part of the program?
7. Who do you think is most impacted by the funding?
8. What do you believe the role of the National Park Service should be with this program?
9. What concerns do you have about program management?
10. How can the funds best serve the Mississippi Delta Communities?
11. What types of projects should the grants be used to fund?
12. Do you want there to be limits on the size of the grants?
13. Do you know of any models you believe could work for the funding?
14. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?
15. Do you have any questions for us?



APPENDIX H: FINAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Opening Question

1. Can you tell us about your engagement with the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI)?

Program Involvement

2. When did you first hear about the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative (LMDI)?
3. When did you first engage with the LMDI?
4. What was your position when you first engaged with the LMDI?
5. Is there anyone else from your unit who is engaged with the LMDI?

Program Knowledge

6. How did you learn about the LMDI when you became involved?
7. Did you have any formal onboarding or training?
8. What did your onboarding or training cover?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being no knowledge or awareness and 10 being very knowledgeable and aware, what do you think your level of knowledge and awareness of the LMDI is?
10. Can you explain your reasoning for this score?
11. Are you aware of the legislation that established the LMDI?
12. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being no knowledge and 10 being very knowledgeable, what do you think your level of knowledge of the legislation is?
13. Can you explain your reasoning for this score?

Time Spent on Program

14. What do you work on for the LMDI?
15. Do you track the amount of time spent on LMDI work?
16. Approximately how much time have you spent in the last year on LMDI work?
17. Has that amount of time increased since your first engagement with the LMDI?
18. Does the current amount of time spent on LMDI program work feel appropriate?

Communication and Outreach

19. Do you communicate about the LMDI with other involved NPS units?
20. What do you communicate about with other involved NPS units?
21. How do you share information about the LMDI with community partners?
22. Do you promote the LMDI?
23. How do you promote the LMDI?
24. Which audiences does the LMDI funding best serve?

Projects, Funding, and Legislative Intent

25. What types of projects best serve the Mississippi Delta Communities?
26. What types of projects should the grants be used to fund?



27. Do you think the projects that have been funded in the past meet the criteria outlined in the legislation?
28. If not, what types of projects would meet the legislative intent?
29. Do you want there to be limits on the size of the grants?

Program Effectiveness

30. What do you see as the most beneficial part of the LMDI?
31. What do you believe the role of the National Park Service should be with the LMDI?
32. Do you have any thoughts about program management (i.e., advisory board structure)?
33. Do you think a different structure for funding and program management would work better?
34. If so, what type of model?
35. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?
36. Do you have any questions for us?



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