

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS  
EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**

Audits of Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020



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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Commissioners  
Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority

### Report on the Audits of the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority (the Authority), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, on pages 4 through 9, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 25, 2022, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



A Professional Accounting Corporation

Covington, LA  
March 25, 2022

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

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The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority's (the Authority) financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Authority's financial activities for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020. This document focuses on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts in comparison with the prior year's information (where available). Please read it in conjunction with the Authority's financial statements, which follow this section.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority's exclusive mission is to finance, construct, and operate facilities in order to attract and conduct conventions, trade shows, and other events that support and expand the economy of both the State of Louisiana and New Orleans Region. In support of this mission, the following are notable financial results from 2021:

- 2021 saw a 14.3% increase in the number of events (56) compared to 2020, with a decrease in the out-of-town attendee figures (75,828) of 40.3%; total attendance (210,160) saw a 26.4% reduction, and number of room nights (168,803) saw a 52.4% increase compared to 2020
- Net position decreased by \$10.4MM, a 2% change from prior year
- Net cash outflow decreased by \$34.6MM due to the continued implementation of the 2020 investment strategies and the planned capital asset program
- Tax revenues increased \$22.5MM, or 89.1%, compared to 2020, with all debt covenants having been met

### **OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This financial report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and the notes to the financial statements. The financial statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the Authority's overall financial status. The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data.

The Authority's financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) as applied to government units. Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the period in which they are earned, expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred, and depreciation of assets is recognized in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the Authority are included in the Statements of Net Position.

The Statements of Net Position present financial information on all of the Authority's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

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### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE AUTHORITY

#### Net Position

The net position, detailed in Table A-1, summarizes the value of the Authority as a whole. The following items are of particular interest:

- 2021 total assets decreased by 2.6% compared to 2020
- The downward trend of liabilities continues with a 6.8% reduction since 2020 and a 23.4% decrease since 2019, as a result of bond repayments

**Table A-1**  
**Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority**  
**Condensed Statements of Net Position (in thousands of dollars)**  
**December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019**

	2021	2020	2019
Current Assets	\$ 43,181	\$ 41,917	\$ 60,455
Designated and Restricted Assets	163,450	193,505	230,080
Capital Assets	389,703	376,606	361,839
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>596,334</b>	<b>612,028</b>	<b>652,374</b>
Unamortized Loss on Bond Refinancing	963	1,208	1,462
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,462</b>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 597,297</b>	<b>\$ 613,236</b>	<b>\$ 653,836</b>
Current Liabilities	\$ 23,431	\$ 20,134	\$ 30,110
Long-Term Liabilities	52,553	61,364	69,033
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>75,984</b>	<b>81,498</b>	<b>99,143</b>
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	332,794	311,493	285,521
Restricted	126,627	115,411	136,034
Unrestricted	61,892	104,834	133,138
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>521,313</b>	<b>531,738</b>	<b>554,693</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 597,297</b>	<b>\$ 613,236</b>	<b>\$ 653,836</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

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### Changes in Net Position

The change in net position detailed in Table A-2 and Graph B-1, highlight the factors that have contributed to the Authority's change in financial position:

- The operating loss increased year-over-year by 17.9% from 2020 to 2021 and increased by 53.6% since 2019
- Tax collections, shown in the non-operating revenues line, increased by \$22.5MM, or 89.1%, compared to 2020, and assists in offsetting the operational loss.
- In 2021, the Authority recorded \$250,000 in distributions to government agencies for the Low Barrier Shelter

**Table A-2**  
**Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority**  
**Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**  
**(in thousands of dollars)**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019**

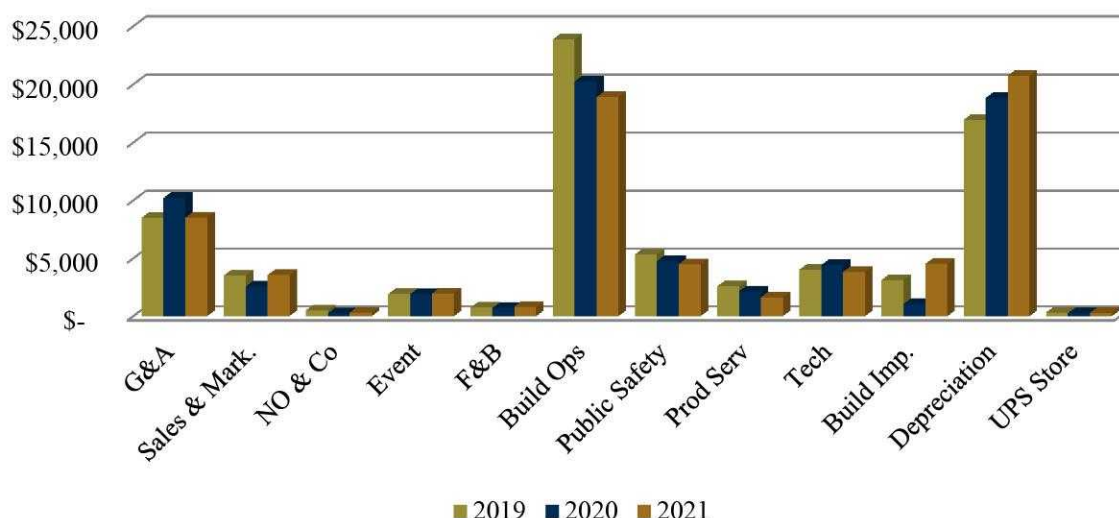
	2021	2020	2019
Operating Revenues			
User Fees and Other Revenues	\$ 11,917	\$ 17,400	\$ 26,847
Food and Beverage	997	1,844	7,668
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>12,914</b>	<b>19,244</b>	<b>34,515</b>
Operating Expenses			
Operating Expenses	48,878	48,518	54,484
Depreciation	20,759	18,843	16,971
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>69,637</b>	<b>67,361</b>	<b>71,455</b>
Operating Loss	(56,723)	(48,117)	(36,940)
Non-Operating Revenues, Net	46,298	25,162	31,373
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>(10,425)</b>	<b>(22,955)</b>	<b>(5,567)</b>
<b>Net Position, Beginning of the Year</b>	<b>531,738</b>	<b>554,693</b>	<b>560,260</b>
<b>Net Position, End of the Year</b>	<b>\$ 521,313</b>	<b>\$ 531,738</b>	<b>\$ 554,693</b>



# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

**Graph B-1: Operating Expenses by Function  
(in Thousands of dollars)**



### Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows, outlined in Table A-3, shows a summary of all inflow and outflow of cash and cash equivalents and is an indication of the Authority's financial health. Items of note include:

- 2021 saw a 266.3% increase in cash flows from investing activities compared to 2020 due to the full implementation of the new investment strategies that occurred in 2019 and then remained relatively constant through 2021
- In 2021, capital and related financing activities accounted for capital asset acquisitions, including the completion of the Linear Park Project, as well as scheduled debt payments; 2020 saw expenditures for similar items

**Table A-3  
Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority  
Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (in thousands of dollars)  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019**

	2021	2020	2019
Cash Flows from:			
Operations	\$ (36,084)	\$ (28,803)	\$ (19,422)
Non-Capital Financing	40,453	24,653	29,476
Capital and Related Financing Activities	(42,410)	(48,198)	(45,565)
Investing Activities	12,676	(7,622)	(91,702)
<b>Net Decrease in Cash</b>	<b>\$ (25,365)</b>	<b>\$ (59,970)</b>	<b>\$ (127,213)</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

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### **CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Capital Assets**

Capital assets are various types of property that enable daily operations and contribute to an organization's ability to generate revenue.

- Through December 31, 2021, the Authority has invested approximately \$760MM in property, buildings, and equipment; this figure is comprised of \$127.7MM not depreciated and \$632.3MM being depreciated
- 2021 resulted in a net increase in capital assets of approximately \$13.1MM
  - \$37.0MM of assets was added during the year
  - Depreciation expense was \$20.8MM during the year
- In 2020, the net increase was \$14.7MM, and in 2019, the net increase was \$15.2MM

Construction in progress continues to reflect the work related to the Convention Center Development District and ongoing capital improvements such as technology infrastructure and back of house facility upgrades.

#### **Debt Administration**

The administration and repayment of debt has continued as scheduled:

- In 2021, almost \$7.2MM of bond principal payments were made; during 2020, \$10.2MM in bond principal payments were made
- All debt covenants have been met; Continuing Disclosure reports are maintained in the official municipal repository

### **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET**

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (the Convention Center) is one of the greatest economic assets of the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. As such, it is important to point out the overall economic impact the Convention Center produces, as well as highlight the key metrics that illustrate the non-financial performance of the organization.

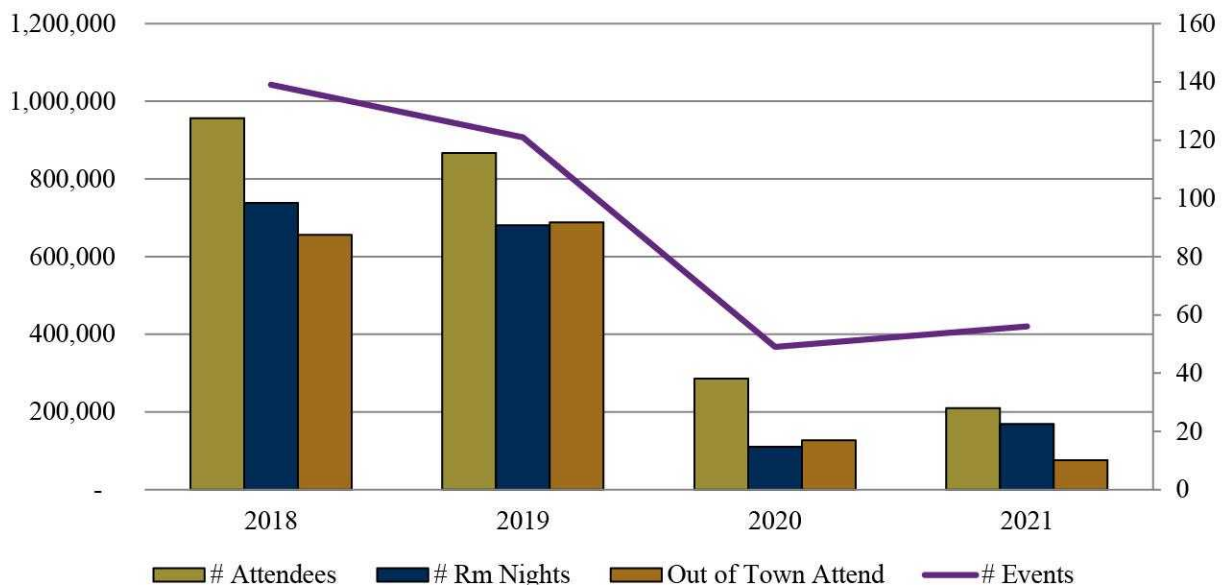
# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

Graph B-2 illustrates the key internal economic factors that affect the operating revenues and expenses:

- Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021 saw a 14.3% increase in the number of events (56) compared to 2020, with a decrease in the out-of-town attendee figures (75,828) of 40.3%; total attendance (210,160) saw a 26.4% reduction, and number of room nights (168,803) saw a 52.4% increase compared to 2020
- The 2022 budget estimates the continuation of the economic recovery with a 43.4% increase in number of events, as well as increases in total attendance and room nights compared to 2021 (Note: no assurances can be made that all anticipated conventions will occur; thus, 2021 estimates may not be realized)

**Graph B-2 - Economic Factors**



### **CONTACTING THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our bondholders, patrons, and other interested parties with a general overview of the Authority's finances and to demonstrate the Authority's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Vice President of Finance and Administration, Alita Caparotta, at (504) 582-3022.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
<b>Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 11,997,809	\$ 1,341,967
Investments	26,803,642	38,034,521
Accounts Receivable, Net	2,725,071	1,090,169
Interest Receivable	140,980	180,107
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	1,513,301	1,270,557
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>43,180,803</b>	<b>41,917,321</b>
<b>Designated and Restricted Assets</b>		
Cash, Designated by Board for Future Specified Use	-	35,600,000
Cash, Restricted Primarily for Construction and Debt Service	5,484,960	5,507,206
Cash, Restricted to Satisfy Cooperative Endeavor Agreements	7,255,775	7,654,266
Investments, Designated by Board for Future Specified Use	35,600,000	40,995,405
Investments, Restricted to Satisfy Cooperative Endeavor Agreements	78,749,693	74,866,244
Investments, Restricted for Debt Service	19,660,228	19,306,142
Interest Receivable	165,048	165,048
Taxes Receivable	16,534,792	9,410,576
<b>Total Designated and Restricted Assets</b>	<b>163,450,496</b>	<b>193,504,887</b>
<b>Property, Building, and Equipment, Net</b>	<b>389,703,502</b>	<b>376,606,371</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>596,334,801</b>	<b>612,028,579</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Unamortized Loss on Bond Refinancing	962,958	1,207,924
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 597,297,759</b>	<b>\$ 613,236,503</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Statements of Net Position (Continued)**  
**December 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
<b>Liabilities and Net Position</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities (Payable from Current Assets)</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 8,175,831	\$ 4,765,187
Other Payables	2,138,618	3,439,243
Unearned Revenue, Current Portion	3,660,270	2,461,443
Compensated Absences, Current Portion	638,281	735,004
<b>Total Current Liabilities (Payable from Current Assets)</b>	<b>14,613,000</b>	<b>11,400,877</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (Payable from Restricted Assets)</b>		
Other Liabilities	83,801	193,442
Accrued Bond Interest	1,139,008	1,304,810
Current Portion of Bonds Payable	7,595,000	7,235,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities (Payable from Restricted Assets)</b>	<b>8,817,809</b>	<b>8,733,252</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>23,430,809</b>	<b>20,134,129</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Compensated Absences, Less Current Portion	487,743	593,337
Bonds Payable, Less Current Portion, Net	50,277,269	59,085,985
Unearned Revenue, Less Current Portion	1,788,253	1,684,516
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>52,553,265</b>	<b>61,363,838</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>75,984,074</b>	<b>81,497,967</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	332,794,191	311,493,310
Restricted Primarily for Debt Service, Construction, and CEAs	126,627,687	115,411,230
Unrestricted - Board Restriction and Designation Reserves for Operations, Capital, and Debt Service	61,891,807	104,833,996
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>521,313,685</b>	<b>531,738,536</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 597,297,759</b>	<b>\$ 613,236,503</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
User Fees	\$ 11,295,477	\$ 17,128,807
Food and Beverage	996,836	1,844,019
The UPS Store	112,034	70,868
Rentals	168,454	155,671
Miscellaneous	341,692	44,827
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>12,914,493</b>	<b>19,244,192</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
General and Administrative	8,512,587	10,207,249
Sales and Marketing	3,558,468	2,559,303
New Orleans & Company	322,663	248,116
Event Services	1,972,734	1,901,250
Food Services	820,775	709,382
Building Operations	18,911,294	20,259,741
Public Safety	4,497,549	4,758,362
Production Services	1,633,035	2,148,886
Technology Services	3,836,289	4,421,843
Non-Capital, One-Time Projects	4,530,302	1,051,549
Depreciation	20,758,766	18,843,277
The UPS Store	282,327	252,519
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>69,636,789</b>	<b>67,361,477</b>
<b>Operating Loss</b>	<b>(56,722,296)</b>	<b>(48,117,285)</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>		
Tax Revenues	47,827,070	25,290,257
Investment Income	248,573	3,456,431
Interest Expense	(1,716,298)	(2,169,029)
Other Non-Operating Revenue	188,100	-
Distributions to Government Agencies	(250,000)	(1,415,516)
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenues, Net</b>	<b>46,297,445</b>	<b>25,162,143</b>
<b>Changes in Net Position</b>	<b>(10,424,851)</b>	<b>(22,955,142)</b>
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>531,738,536</b>	<b>554,693,678</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 521,313,685</b>	<b>\$ 531,738,536</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Cash Received from User Fees	\$ 11,251,075	\$ 16,520,424
Cash Received from Other Sources	1,331,080	2,773,001
Cash Paid to Employees and for Related Expenses	(27,684,594)	(28,785,483)
Cash Paid to Suppliers	(20,981,249)	(19,310,911)
<b>Net Cash Used in Operating Activities</b>	<b>(36,083,688)</b>	<b>(28,802,969)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Non-Capital Financing Activities</b>		
Cash Received from Taxes	40,702,855	30,564,997
Distributions to Government Agencies	(250,000)	(5,912,187)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Non-Capital Financing Activities</b>	<b>40,452,855</b>	<b>24,652,810</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>		
Acquisition and Construction of Capital Assets	(32,324,929)	(34,589,816)
Interest Paid	(2,850,581)	(3,363,100)
Repayment of Bonds	(7,235,000)	(10,245,000)
<b>Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	<b>(42,410,510)</b>	<b>(48,197,916)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchases of Investment Securities	(342,606,453)	(315,068,915)
Proceeds from Sales and Maturities of Investment Securities	353,733,303	304,524,954
Interest Payments Received	1,549,598	2,921,881
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>12,676,448</b>	<b>(7,622,080)</b>
<b>Net Decrease in Cash</b>	<b>(25,364,895)</b>	<b>(59,970,155)</b>
<b>Cash, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>50,103,439</b>	<b>110,073,594</b>
<b>Cash, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 24,738,544</b>	<b>\$ 50,103,439</b>
<b>Reconciliation to Statements of Net Position</b>		
Cash, Current Assets	\$ 11,997,809	\$ 1,341,967
Cash, Designated by Board for Future Specified Use	-	35,600,000
Cash, Restricted Primarily for Construction and Debt Service	5,484,960	5,507,206
Cash, Restricted to Satisfy Cooperative Endeavor Agreements	7,255,775	7,654,266
<b>Total Reconciliation to Statements of Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 24,738,544</b>	<b>\$ 50,103,439</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Statements of Cash Flows (Continued)**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash</b>		
<b>Used in Operating Activities</b>		
Operating Loss	\$ (56,722,296)	\$ (48,117,285)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to		
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities		
Depreciation	20,758,766	18,843,277
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts Receivable	(1,634,902)	802,535
Prepaid and Other Assets	(242,744)	144,242
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	454,924	277,565
Unearned Revenue	1,302,564	(753,303)
	<u>1,302,564</u>	<u>(753,303)</u>
<b>Net Cash Used in Operating Activities</b>	<u>\$ (36,083,688)</u>	<u>\$ (28,802,969)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Organization and Reporting Entity**

The Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority (the Authority) is a body politic and corporate and political subdivision of the State of Louisiana (the State) created pursuant to the provisions of Act 305 of the 1978 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature and now governed by Act 172 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (R.S. 33:4710.11-4710.30) (the Act). The Act provides that the Authority shall plan, finance, construct, and manage a convention and exhibition center in the City of New Orleans (the City). The Act authorizes the Authority to issue bonds and to use the proceeds thereof to acquire, construct, re-construct, extend, improve, maintain, and operate projects located or to be located in Orleans Parish, including the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (the Convention Center). The Act further authorizes the Authority to levy and collect taxes and to pledge for the payment of its bonds and the interest thereon, the proceeds of such taxes, and other revenues of the Authority.

The operations of the convention and exhibition center are through the New Orleans Public Facility Management, Inc. (NOPFM), a separately incorporated organization, doing business as the Convention Center. Under the present management agreement between the Authority and NOPFM, the Authority reimburses NOPFM for costs of operating the convention and exhibition center, and NOPFM will neither own assets nor retain revenues. The NOPFM is a blended component unit of the Authority.

The Authority is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Commissioners composed of ten (10) appointees of the Governor of Louisiana and three (3) appointees of the Mayor of New Orleans. The Board of Commissioners establishes policies, approves the budget, controls appropriations, and appoints an Executive Vice President responsible for administering all the Authority's operations and activities.

No other potential component units meet the criteria for inclusion in the financial statements of the Authority.

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Authority's financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing U.S. GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the period in which they are earned, expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred, and depreciation of assets is recognized in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the Authority are included in the statements of net position.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Basis of Presentation (Continued)**

The proprietary fund is used to account for the Authority's ongoing operations and activities which are similar to those in the private sector. Proprietary funds are accounted for using a flow of economic resource measurement focus under which assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included in the statements of net position. The statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in net position.

The Authority maintains one proprietary fund type - the enterprise fund. The enterprise fund is used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance.

Operating revenues include all charges for service and related fees associated with operating expenses. Interest income, interest expense, distributions to and from government agencies, and tax revenues are presented as non-operating items.

#### **Basis of Reporting**

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, as amended, net position is classified into three components: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted. These classifications are defined as follows:

*Net Investment in Capital Assets* - This component of net position consists of capital position, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets, plus deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.

*Restricted* - This component of net position consists of constraints placed on net position use through external constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

*Unrestricted* - This component of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets".

The Authority utilizes available restricted assets before utilizing unrestricted assets.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Designated and Restricted Assets

Certain assets, consisting of cash, investments, and receivables, are segregated and classified as designated or restricted assets.

Restricted assets are held as follows:

- Debt service reserve was established by the Authority's bond indentures. The required reserve is the lesser of (i) ten percent of the original principal issued, (ii) the maximum amount of principal installments and interest maturing and becoming due in the fiscal year in which such calculation is made or in any single succeeding fiscal year on all outstanding bonds, and (iii) 125% of average annual principal and interest requirement on the bonds, calculated on a fiscal year basis.
- Debt service, funded by the various tax revenues, was established by the Authority's bond indentures. The required accumulated debt service is equal to the sum of (i) interest accruing during the period of bonds outstanding and (ii) the portion of principal accruing until the next principal payment date.
- Capital projects, funded by the proceeds of taxes, restricted for building expansion and improvements.
- Venture Lease Escrows, which include rental income received by the Authority on behalf of and remitted to the City of New Orleans for property owned by the City. In addition to the amounts collected on behalf of the City of New Orleans, the Authority also collects certain funds related to a third-party cell site. The amounts payable are included in other liabilities on the statements of net position.
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Office of Facility Planning and Control of the Division of Administration, to undertake enhancement of the Convention Center and installation of basic infrastructure to facilitate establishment and development of the Convention Center District.
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the City of New Orleans for the development of Convention Center Boulevard and to enhance public safety for residents, employees, and visitors.
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans, the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (now known as New Orleans & Company), and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety: Public Safety Services, Office of Louisiana State Police (LSP), to further enhance public safety in the French Quarter in the City of New Orleans.
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans and the Downtown Development District to accomplish the public purpose of enhancing public services available to the homeless population of New Orleans.
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Restaurant Association and the Greater New Orleans Hotel-Motel Association in which the Authority obligates to fund a general operating reserve equal to 150% of the annual operating budget of the Authority.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Designated and Restricted Assets (Continued)

Designated assets are held to fund capital projects which are under contract and underway, in the planning stages, or in the acquisition stage.

#### Cash

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and interest-bearing demand deposits. Under state law, the Authority may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

#### Investments

Investments consist of time deposits, money market mutual funds, certificates of deposits, U.S. Treasury obligations, U.S. government agency securities, bonds, and debentures issued by states of the United States of America that meet the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955(A)(1)(k), bonds and debentures issued by domestic U.S. corporations that meet the provisions of R.S. 33:2955(A)(1)(l), and repurchase agreements, and are stated at fair value. Fair value is based on quoted market prices, as applicable; if quoted prices are not available, fair value is estimated based on similar securities.

#### Property, Building, and Equipment

Property, building, and equipment are carried at historical cost. Depreciation and amortization are charged to expense over the estimated useful lives of the assets and are determined using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives used in computing depreciation and amortization are as follows:

Buildings	40 Years
Building Improvements	20 Years
Equipment, Furniture, and Fixtures	5 - 12 Years

The Authority capitalizes moveable equipment with a value of \$5,000 or greater. The Authority capitalizes building improvements greater than \$50,000. The cost of additions includes contracted work, direct labor, materials, and allocable cost. Donated fixed assets are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation.

Interest is capitalized on fixed assets acquired and/or constructed with tax-exempt debt. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is recognized in revenue for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to operations as incurred, and significant renewals and betterments are capitalized. Deductions are made for retirements resulting from renewals or betterments.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Property, Building, and Equipment (Continued)**

The Authority reviews long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset might not be recoverable through future utilization. An impairment charge is recognized when the fair value of an asset is less than its carrying value.

#### **Taxes**

The Authority receives dedicated taxes as follows:

##### Hotel Occupancy Tax

The Authority's bonds are payable from revenues derived by the Authority from the Hotel Occupancy Tax authorized by Act 305 of the Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana for 1978, as amended, and earnings on certain funds and accounts of the Authority. The 1978 Hotel Occupancy Tax is levied and collected on the occupancy of hotel and motel rooms within the Parish of Orleans. Initially established as a 1% tax, the rate (with approval by the Legislature and public referendum) was increased to 2%, effective October 1, 1980. This tax is presently being collected within the City and other locations on behalf of the Authority by the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation.

Effective July 1, 2002, an additional 1% percent was imposed for the purpose of providing funds for the Phase IV Convention Center Expansion Project. These additional taxes were used to fund initial capital expenditures incurred and are currently used to retire all bonds.

This tax is legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds and will expire on the date such tax no longer secures outstanding indebtedness of the Authority.

##### Hotel Occupancy/Food and Beverage Tax

Pursuant to Act 390 of the Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana for 1987, the Authority is empowered to levy and collect a Hotel Occupancy Tax (the 1988 Hotel Occupancy Tax) and a Food and Beverage Tax (collectively, referred to as the Tax), to secure bonds to be issued to finance a portion of the costs of the Convention Center expansion. The 1988 Hotel Occupancy Tax is separate and distinct from the 1978 Hotel Occupancy Tax levied by the Authority. The Tax has additionally been approved by the City Council and was imposed pursuant to a special election held on November 21, 1987.

On February 24, 1988, the Authority adopted a resolution authorizing the actual levy and collection of the Tax to be effective April 1, 1988. The Tax is presently being collected within the City and other locations on behalf of the Authority pursuant to a Contract of Agency for Collection of Taxes with the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation (the Department). The Department is required to remit tax collections to the Authority, initially net of the \$200,000 annual collections fee retained by the Department at the rate of 3% of monthly collections until the total amount is attained. The collection fee is subject to annual renegotiation which is currently \$200,000.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Taxes (Continued)

##### Hotel Occupancy/Food and Beverage Tax (Continued)

The 1988 Hotel Occupancy Tax is levied in the amount of fifty cents (\$0.50) per occupied hotel room per night for hotels containing ten (10) to two hundred ninety-nine (299) guest rooms, one dollar (\$1.00) per occupied hotel room per night for hotels containing three hundred (300) to nine hundred ninety-nine (999) guest rooms, and two dollars (\$2.00) per occupied hotel room for hotels containing one thousand (1,000) or more guest rooms.

The 1988 Hotel Occupancy Tax is legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds and will automatically terminate upon payment in full of all bonds or other obligations of the Authority payable in whole or in part from or secured by the 1988 Hotel Occupancy Tax.

##### Food and Beverage Tax

The Food and Beverage Tax is a tax in the amount of one half of one percent (0.5%) imposed on the gross receipts from the sale of food and beverages in any food service establishment. The tax is applicable to all such establishments located within the City or in any airport or air transportation facility owned and operated by the City, excluding food service establishments which have annual gross receipts from food and beverage sales of less than \$200,000, from the operation of all such establishments during the calendar year prior to the year in which such tax is assessed. The tax is not applicable to meals furnished to the staff and students of educational institutions; the staff and patients of hospitals; the staff, inmates, and patients of mental institutions; and the boarders of rooming houses.

Effective July 1, 2002, an additional one quarter of one percent (0.25%) on annual gross receipts from food and beverage sales greater than \$500,000 was imposed for the purpose of providing funds for the Phase IV Convention Center Expansion Project. These additional taxes were used to fund initial capital expenditures incurred and are currently used to retire all bonds.

The Food and Beverage Tax is legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds and will automatically terminate upon payment in full of all bonds or other obligations of the Authority payable in whole or in part from or secured by the Food and Beverage Tax.

##### Service Contractors and Tour Tax

Pursuant to Act 42 of the Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana for 1994, which amended Act 305 of 1978, the Authority is empowered to levy and impose a 2% tax on the furnishing of goods and services in conjunction with trade shows, conventions, and exhibitions located within the Parish of Orleans. The effective date of the Service Contractors Tax was May 1, 1995.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Taxes (Continued)**

##### Service Contractors and Tour Tax (Continued)

"Goods and services" means merchandise, wares, materials, labor, assistance, or benefits provided in connection with the installation and dismantling of exhibits, displays and booths, decorations, electrical supplies, materials handling, drayage, flowers and floral decorations, computers, audio and visual equipment, bands and orchestras, lighting trusses, rigging and associated equipment, furniture, carpets, signs, props, floats, business machines, plumbing, telephones, photography, utilities, balloons, scaffolding, forklifts, high lifts, security, information retrieval systems, and any other services or items associated with the above. Specifically excluded are foods and beverages and the shuttle services of attendees to and from the location of the convention and trade show.

In addition to the above, the Authority is also empowered to levy and impose a one dollar (\$1.00) tax on the sale of tickets sold in the Parish of Orleans for per capita sightseeing tours in the Parish of Orleans, and for tours, a portion of which includes sight-seeing in the Parish of Orleans. The effective date of this tax was May 1, 1995 and is presently being collected within the City and other locations on behalf of the Authority by the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation.

This tax is legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds and will automatically terminate upon payment in full of all bonds or other obligations of the Authority payable in whole or in part from or secured by the Service Contractors and Tour Tax.

##### RTA Tax

In April 2002, the Authority entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation (NOTMC), creating a transit fund to be separately maintained and funded with taxes collected by the RTA based on a 1% sales tax to be collected from hotels and motels in the City of New Orleans and equal to 50% of the annual fee paid by RTA to NOTMC. In exchange for the funds received, the Authority agreed to utilize the funds for financing or funding of actual physical construction costs (labor and materials) of new capital facilities and/or capital improvements of the Convention Center in connection with the Phase IV Expansion Project, particularly including, but not limited to, facilities and/or improvements that address and recognize the need to access the RTA's Riverfront Streetcar and Shuttle bus services and the transportation needs of the Convention Center attendees and the public, consistent with the needs of the Authority and the legal requirements for the use and/or expenditure of the revenues derived from the RTA tax. In addition, moneys in the transit fund may be used to pay debt service on any bonds issued for construction financing of the Phase IV Expansion Project.

This tax is legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds and will expire on the date such tax no longer secures outstanding indebtedness of the Authority.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Taxes (Continued)**

##### State of Louisiana, Department of State Economic Development

Pursuant to Act 73, based on the sufficiency of the hotel occupancy tax collections to pay the obligations of related bonds within any fiscal year of the State of Louisiana, the State of Louisiana Department of State Economic Development appropriates \$2 million of the remaining funds on an annual basis to the Authority.

These funds are legally pledged to secure the Authority's Series 2012 and 2014 bonds; however, the pledge of the Series 2014 bonds may be terminated by the Authority subject to certain conditions in the bond indenture.

#### **Capital Contributions**

Contributions from state appropriations are made available to the Authority for capital improvements and are recognized when the expenses have been incurred and approval of the appropriation has been received. These appropriations are included in capital contributions in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position. Capital contributions for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 were \$188,100 and \$-0-, respectively.

#### **Compensated Absences**

The Authority's personal time off (PTO) plan provides for the following paid time off:

- 0 to less than 5 years of continuous service - 128 hours/16 days
- 5 years to less than 10 years of continuous service - 168 hours/21 days
- 10 years to less than 20 years of continuous service - 208 hours/26 days
- 20 or more years of continuous service - 248 hours/31 days

Employees may carry over up to a maximum of 200 hours of accrued, unused PTO from one (1) calendar year to the next. Any unused PTO that exceeds 200 hours is forfeited.

#### **Bond Issuance Costs and Refunding**

Costs related to issuing bonds are expensed when incurred. Gains and losses associated with refunding and advance refunding are being deferred and amortized based upon the methods used to approximate the interest method over the life of the new bonds or the remaining term on any refunded bond, whichever is shorter.

#### **Risk Management**

The Authority provides for losses, up to the per employee maximum amount, resulting from health insurance claims (see Note 11). The Authority is commercially insured for amounts greater than the annual maximum as well as for other significant risks (e.g., general liability, workers' compensation, building, etc.).



# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Revenues and Unearned Revenue

Revenues from user fees, food and beverage, the UPS store, and rentals are recognized when earned (when the event/transaction occurs). Revenue collected for events in future years is reported as unearned revenue.

#### Use of Estimates

The Authority prepares financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Such principles require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

Effective January 1, 2021, the Authority adopted the provisions of the GASB Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*. In accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 89, the Authority no longer capitalizes interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period.

#### Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year balances in order to comply with current year presentation.

### Note 2. Cash and Investments

The Authority's cash and investments consisted of the following as of December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021	2020
<b>Cash</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 11,997,809	\$ 1,341,967
Designated by Board for Future Specified Use	-	35,600,000
Restricted Primarily for Debt Service and Construction	5,484,960	5,507,206
Restricted to Satisfy Cooperative Endeavor Agreements	7,255,775	7,654,266
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$ 24,738,544</b>	<b>\$ 50,103,439</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 26,803,642	\$ 38,034,521
Designated by Board for Future Specified Use	35,600,000	40,995,405
Restricted to Satisfy Cooperative Endeavor Agreements	78,749,693	74,866,244
Restricted for Debt Service	19,660,228	19,306,142
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 160,813,563</b>	<b>\$ 173,202,312</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 2. Cash and Investments (Continued)

Actual cash in banks as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 for restricted and unrestricted bank accounts, before outstanding checks and reconciling items, was \$24,911,769 and \$50,334,992, respectively. Of the total bank balances at December 31, 2021 and 2020, all amounts were covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral held in the Authority's name by its agent. Because the pledged securities are held by the pledging fiscal agent in the Authority's name, the Authority does not have any custodial credit risk. The pledged securities may be released only upon the written authorization of the Authority.

R.S. 33:2955 authorizes the Authority to invest in direct United States Treasury obligations; short-term repurchase agreements; time certificates of deposit at financial institutions, state banks, and national banks; bonds, debentures, notes, or other indebtedness issued or guaranteed by U.S. government instrumentalities which are federally sponsored or federal agencies that are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States; bonds and debentures issued by states of the United States of America that meet the provisions of R.S. 33:2955(A)(1)(k); bonds and debentures issued by domestic U.S. corporations that meet the provisions of R.S. 33:2955(A)(1)(l); and repurchase agreements.

<b>Investment Type</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
U.S. Agency	\$ 18,774,252	\$ 39,676,721
U.S. Treasury	53,053,360	11,517,260
Cash and Cash Equivalents	59,249,930	88,738,667
Corporate Debt Instruments	7,453,573	9,593,481
State and Municipal Bonds	4,866,704	6,265,063
Investment Pool	10,024,444	10,019,820
Repurchase Agreements	7,391,300	7,391,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 160,813,563</b>	<b>\$ 173,202,312</b>

#### Credit Quality Risk

Credit quality risk is defined as the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Credit quality risk disclosures apply to fixed income investments.

Credit ratings of the Authority's investments in debt securities as of December 31, 2021 are as follows:

<b>Investment Type</b>	<b>U.S. Agency</b>	<b>U.S. Treasury</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Money Market</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>AAA</b>	\$ 18,774,252	\$ 53,053,360	\$ 7,453,573	\$ 28,649,668	\$ 4,866,704	\$ 112,797,557

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 2. Cash and Investments (Continued)

#### Credit Quality Risk (Continued)

Credit ratings of the Authority's investments in debt securities as of December 31, 2020 are as follows:

Investment Type	U.S. Agency	U.S. Treasury	Corporate	Money Market	Municipal	Total
AAA	\$ 39,676,721	\$ 11,517,260	\$ 9,593,481	\$ 5,693,706	\$ 6,265,063	\$ 72,746,231

#### Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of failure, the Authority will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Investments are exposed to custodial credit risk if they are uninsured, are not registered in the Authority's name, and are held by either the counterparty to the investment purchase or the counterparty's trust department or agent but not held in the Authority's name. The investments of the Authority owned at December 31, 2021 and 2020 were not subject to custodial credit risk.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

The Authority's investment policy allows for investment in all types of investments as stipulated in R.S. 33:2955 with certain limitations on the type of investment. As of December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority was in compliance with its investment policy.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that changes in the financial market rates of interest will adversely affect the value of an investment. The Authority manages interest rate risk for investments under the control of the Authority by limiting the maximum maturity of investments to five years, with the exception of agency mortgage-backed securities that have a maximum weighted average life of five years, in accordance with the Authority's investment policy statement.

At December 31, 2021, the Authority's investment balances and maturities for those investments subject to interest rate risk were as follows:

Investment Type	Total	Less than One Year	1 - 5 Years	6 - 10 Years	More than Ten Years
U.S. Agency	\$ 18,774,252	\$ 3,376,483	\$ 12,539,005	\$ 2,000,842	\$ 857,922
U.S. Treasury	53,053,360	31,975,592	21,077,768	-	-
Corporate Debt Instruments	7,453,573	1,565,315	5,888,258	-	-
Money Market	28,649,668	28,649,668	-	-	-
State and Municipal Bonds	4,866,704	1,461,642	3,405,062	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 112,797,557</b>	<b>\$ 67,028,700</b>	<b>\$ 42,910,093</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,842</b>	<b>\$ 857,922</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 2. Cash and Investments (Continued)

#### Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

At December 31, 2020, the Authority's investment balances and maturities for those investments subject to interest rate risk were as follows:

Investment Type	Total	Less than One Year	1 - 5 Years	6 - 10 Years	More than Ten Years
U.S. Agency	\$ 39,676,721	\$ 15,524,315	\$ 20,159,401	\$ 3,007,610	\$ 985,395
U.S. Treasury	11,517,260	4,572,678	6,944,582	-	-
Corporate Debt Instruments	9,593,481	-	9,593,481	-	-
Money Market	5,693,706	5,693,706	-	-	-
State and Municipal Bonds	6,265,063	514,415	5,750,648	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 72,746,231</b>	<b>\$ 26,305,114</b>	<b>\$ 42,448,112</b>	<b>\$ 3,007,610</b>	<b>\$ 985,395</b>

#### Repurchase Agreements

As of December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority had \$7,391,300 of repurchase agreements with fixed rates of interest through the terms of the agreements. These investments are held under the terms of the bond indenture agreements as reserve funds. The repurchase agreements were supported by collateral requirements varying from 104% to 105% of the account balance. Collateral is held in the name of the trustees of the bond issue for the benefit of the Authority and consists of U.S. government and agency securities. Custodians are independent of the counterparties to the agreements. Under the terms of the repurchase agreements, the trustees may make deposits and withdrawals for these accounts in accordance with certain terms of the trust indenture agreements. The investments are subject to custodial credit risk upon default of the custodian.

The Authority's repurchase agreements were as follows as of December 31, 2021:

Bond Issue	Interest Rate	Termination Date	Amount
2012 and 2014 Refunding Bonds	4.785%	July 2033	\$ 7,391,300

The Authority's repurchase agreements were as follows as of December 31, 2020:

Bond Issue	Interest Rate	Termination Date	Amount
2012 and 2014 Refunding Bonds	4.785%	July 2033	\$ 7,391,300

Custodial credit risk is managed through the requirements of the counterparty to maintain pledged securities in the name of the Authority held in the counterparty's trust department or by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States. The Authority's investment in repurchase agreements is a contract and is not rated.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 2. Cash and Investments (Continued)

#### Investment Pool

Investments of \$10,024,444 and \$10,019,820, as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively, were invested in Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. (LAMP), a local government investment pool. In accordance with GASB Codification Section 150.126, the investment in LAMP is not categorized in the three risk categories provided by GASB Codification Section 150.125 because the investment is in a pool of funds and, therefore, not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high-quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with R.S. 33:2955.

GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure*, requires disclosure of credit risk, custodial credit risk, concentration of credit risk, interest rate risk, and foreign currency risk for all public entity investments.

LAMP is an investment pool that, to the extent practical, invests in a manner consistent with GASB Statement No. 79. The following facts are relevant for investment pools:

- *Credit Risk:* LAMP is rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's.
- *Custodial Credit Risk:* LAMP participants' investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.
- *Concentration of Credit Risk:* Pooled investments are excluded from the 5 percent disclosure requirement.
- *Interest Rate Risk:* LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. LAMP prepares its own interest rate risk disclosure using the weighted average maturity (WAM) method. The WAM of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 60 days and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. The WAM for LAMP's total investments was 45 as of December 31, 2021.
- *Foreign Currency Risk:* Not applicable.

The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP, and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the net asset value of the pool shares.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 2. Cash and Investments (Continued)

#### Investment Pool (Continued)

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment company.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the LAMP administrative office at 800-249-5267.

### Note 3. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consisted of the following as of December 31<sup>st</sup>:

	2021	2020
Customers	\$ 3,007,550	\$ 1,191,132
Other	6,726	74,422
	<u>3,014,276</u>	<u>1,265,554</u>
Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts	(289,205)	(175,385)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,725,071</b>	<b>\$ 1,090,169</b>

Receivables from customers represent amounts due in connection with the use of facilities.

### Note 4. Property, Building, and Equipment

Property, building, and equipment are summarized as follows at December 31, 2021:

	Balance January 1, 2021	Additions/ Increases	Transfers	Disposals/ Retirements	Balance December 31, 2021
<b>Capital Assets Not Depreciated</b>					
Land	\$ 79,222,985	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,222,985
Art/Exhibits	587,000	205,000	-	-	792,000
Construction in Progress	64,285,167	33,361,729	(46,694,712)	(3,100,122)	47,852,062
<b>Total Capital Assets Not Depreciated</b>	<u>144,095,152</u>	<u>33,566,729</u>	<u>(46,694,712)</u>	<u>(3,100,122)</u>	<u>127,867,047</u>
<b>Capital Assets Being Depreciated</b>					
Building/Building Improvements	529,345,009	-	45,737,301	-	575,082,310
Boulevard Improvements	12,591,864	-	-	-	12,591,864
Equipment	20,103,341	2,760,786	957,411	-	23,821,538
Surface Parking	17,182,752	-	-	-	17,182,752
Software	3,034,866	628,504	-	-	3,663,370
<b>Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated</b>	<u>582,257,832</u>	<u>3,389,290</u>	<u>46,694,712</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>632,341,834</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	(349,746,613)	(20,758,766)	-	-	(370,505,379)
<b>Total Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 376,606,371</b>	<b>\$ 16,197,253</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (3,100,122)</b>	<b>\$ 389,703,502</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 4. Property, Building, and Equipment (Continued)

Property, building, and equipment are summarized as follows at December 31, 2020:

	Balance January 1, 2020	Additions/ Increases	Transfers	Disposals/ Retirements	Balance December 31, 2020
<b>Capital Assets Not Depreciated</b>					
Land	\$ 79,222,985	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,222,985
Art/Exhibits	182,000	-	405,000	-	587,000
Construction in Progress	32,433,577	33,611,283	(1,759,693)	-	64,285,167
<b>Total Capital Assets Not Depreciated</b>	<b>111,838,562</b>	<b>33,611,283</b>	<b>(1,354,693)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144,095,152</b>
<b>Capital Assets Being Depreciated</b>					
Building/Building Improvements	529,250,160	-	94,849	-	529,345,009
Boulevard Improvements	12,591,864	-	-	-	12,591,864
Equipment	19,191,401	-	911,940	-	20,103,341
Surface Parking	17,152,402	-	30,350	-	17,182,752
Software	2,717,312	-	317,554	-	3,034,866
<b>Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated</b>	<b>580,903,139</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,354,693</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>582,257,832</b>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	(330,903,336)	(18,843,277)	-	-	(349,746,613)
<b>Total Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 361,838,365</b>	<b>\$ 14,768,006</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 376,606,371</b>

The construction in progress as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 include both routine capital improvements and several major projects. In September 2018, the Authority began construction on the pedestrian park and street enhancements, also known as the Linear Park. In 2021, major improvements such as Linear Park, technology and exhibit hall lighting upgrades, restroom renovations, and charging station re-design and build (formerly iCoves) were also completed. Projects which are in progress at December 31, 2021 are: technology infrastructure upgrade and back of house building maintenance.

### Note 5. Fair Value

The Authority's investments measured and reported at fair value are classified according to the following hierarchy:

- Level 1 Investments reflect prices quoted in active markets.
- Level 2 Investments reflect prices that are based on a similar observable asset, either directly or indirectly, which may include inputs in markets that are not considered to be active.
- Level 3 Investments reflect prices based upon unobservable sources.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 5. Fair Value (Continued)

The categorization of investments within the hierarchy is based upon the pricing transparency of the instrument and should not be perceived as the particular investment's risk. Investments classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy are valued directly from a predetermined primary external pricing vendor. Assets classified in Level 2 are subject to pricing by an alternative pricing source due to lack of information available by the primary vendor.

The valuation of the Authority's investments measured at fair value at December 31, 2021 is as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Investments Reported at Fair Value</b>				
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	\$ 41,059,576	\$ 18,190,354	\$ -	\$ 59,249,930
<b>Fixed Income Securities</b>				
U.S. Treasury Obligations	53,053,360	-	-	53,053,360
U.S. Agency Obligations	6,803,627	11,970,625	-	18,774,252
Corporate Debt Instruments	4,291,903	3,161,670	-	7,453,573
State and Municipal Bonds	124,390	4,742,314	-	4,866,704
<b>Total Investments Reported at Fair Value</b>	<b>\$ 105,332,856</b>	<b>\$ 38,064,963</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>143,397,819</b>
<b>Investments Not Reported at Fair Value</b>				
<b>Investment Pool</b>				10,024,444
<b>Repurchase Agreements</b>				7,391,300
<b>Total Investments</b>				<b>\$ 160,813,563</b>

The valuation of the Authority's investments measured at fair value at December 31, 2020 is as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Investments Reported at Fair Value</b>				
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	\$ 79,240,277	\$ 9,498,390	\$ -	\$ 88,738,667
<b>Fixed Income Securities</b>				
U.S. Treasury Obligations	11,517,260	-	-	11,517,260
U.S. Agency Obligations	7,015,617	32,661,104	-	39,676,721
Corporate Debt Instruments	6,435,980	3,157,501	-	9,593,481
State and Municipal Bonds	-	6,265,063	-	6,265,063
<b>Total Investments Reported at Fair Value</b>	<b>\$ 104,209,134</b>	<b>\$ 51,582,058</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>155,791,192</b>
<b>Investments Not Reported at Fair Value</b>				
<b>Investment Pool</b>				10,019,820
<b>Repurchase Agreements</b>				7,391,300
<b>Total Investments</b>				<b>\$ 173,202,312</b>



# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 6. Long-Term Obligations

The following summarizes the changes in the Authority's long-term obligations for the year ended December 31, 2021:

	January 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	December 31, 2021	Due Within One Year	Over One Year
Bonds Payable	\$ 59,960,000	\$ -	\$ (7,235,000)	\$ 52,725,000	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 45,130,000
Adjustments						5,147,269
Premiums						<u>50,277,269</u>
Compensated Absences	1,328,341		(202,317)	1,126,024	638,281	487,743
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 61,288,341</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (7,437,317)</b>	<b>\$ 53,851,024</b>	<b>\$ 8,233,281</b>	<b>\$ 50,765,012</b>

The following summarizes the changes in the Authority's long-term obligations for the year ended December 31, 2020:

	January 1, 2020	Additions	Deletions	December 31, 2020	Due Within One Year	Over One Year
Bonds Payable	\$ 70,205,000	\$ -	\$ (10,245,000)	\$ 59,960,000	\$ 7,235,000	\$ 52,725,000
Adjustments						6,360,985
Premiums						<u>59,085,985</u>
Compensated Absences	1,110,716	217,625	-	1,328,341	735,004	593,337
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 71,315,716</b>	<b>\$ 217,625</b>	<b>\$ (10,245,000)</b>	<b>\$ 61,288,341</b>	<b>\$ 7,970,004</b>	<b>\$ 59,679,322</b>

### Bonds

Long-term debt activity for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 was as follows:

December 31, 2021	Series 2012	Series 2014	Total
	Refunding Bonds	Refunding Bonds	
Balance January 1, 2021	\$ 26,395,000	\$ 33,565,000	\$ 59,960,000
Additions	-	-	-
Maturities/Refinancing	(1,595,000)	(5,640,000)	(7,235,000)
<b>Balance December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 24,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 27,925,000</b>	<b>\$ 52,725,000</b>
<b>Due Within One Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,680,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,915,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,595,000</b>
<hr/>			
December 31, 2020	Series 2012	Series 2014	Total
	Refunding Bonds	Refunding Bonds	
Balance January 1, 2020	\$ 28,865,000	\$ 41,340,000	\$ 70,205,000
Additions	-	-	-
Maturities/Refinancing	(2,470,000)	(7,775,000)	(10,245,000)
<b>Balance December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 26,395,000</b>	<b>\$ 33,565,000</b>	<b>\$ 59,960,000</b>
<b>Due Within One Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,595,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,640,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,235,000</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 6. Long-Term Obligations (Continued)

#### Bonds (Continued)

The Authority's bond issues outstanding as of December 31<sup>st</sup> were as follows:

	2021	2020
2012 Series, Refunding Bonds, interest rates between 3.0% and 5.0%, due in annual principal debt service requirements ranging from \$465,000 to \$10,270,000, final payment due July 2027.	\$ 24,800,000	\$ 26,395,000
2014 Series, Refunding Bonds, interest rates between 2.0% and 5.0%, due in annual principal debt service requirements ranging from \$5,915,000 to \$7,910,000, final payment due July 2025.	27,925,000	33,565,000
	<b>52,725,000</b>	59,960,000
Plus: Unamortized Net Premium	5,147,269	6,360,985
Less: Current Maturities	<b>(7,595,000)</b>	<b>(7,235,000)</b>
<b>Long-Term Debt Less Current Maturities</b>	<b>\$ 50,277,269</b>	<b>\$ 59,085,985</b>

The principal and interest on the Authority's bonds are payable from the proceeds of the levy and collection of legally pledged taxes as described in Note 1. The Series 2012 and Series 2014 Refunding Bonds are solely the obligation of the Authority and not of the State of Louisiana or any other agency or political subdivision thereof.

The Authority was in compliance with its bond covenants as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

The annual requirements to amortize all bonds as of December 31, 2021 were as follows:

	2012 Bond Series		2014 Bond Series		Total		Total
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	
2022	\$ 1,680,000	\$ 1,204,850	\$ 5,915,000	\$ 1,280,250	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 2,485,100	\$ 10,080,100
2023	1,770,000	1,120,850	6,210,000	984,500	7,980,000	2,105,350	10,085,350
2024	465,000	1,032,350	7,910,000	674,000	8,375,000	1,706,350	10,081,350
2025	835,000	1,018,400	7,890,000	336,700	8,725,000	1,355,100	10,080,100
2026	9,780,000	985,000	-	-	9,780,000	985,000	10,765,000
2027	10,270,000	496,000	-	-	10,270,000	496,000	10,766,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,857,450</b>	<b>\$ 27,925,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,275,450</b>	<b>\$ 52,725,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,132,900</b>	<b>\$ 61,857,900</b>

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Note 7. Unearned Revenue

A summary of the unearned revenue, consisting primarily of rental payments, was as follows as of December 31<sup>st</sup>:

	2021	2020
Customer Prepayments	\$ 5,448,523	\$ 4,145,959
Less: Current Portion	3,660,270	2,461,443
<b>Long-Term Portion</b>	<b>\$ 1,788,253</b>	<b>\$ 1,684,516</b>

### Note 8. Taxes

The following summarizes taxes receivable and revenue as of and for the years ended December 31<sup>st</sup>:

	2021		2020	
	Receivable	Revenue	Receivable	Revenue
3% Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$ 5,068,752	\$ 20,009,474	\$ 1,106,597	\$ 11,918,858
Refund - 3% Hotel Occupancy Tax	-	10,714,448	-	-
State Economic Development	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Hotel Occupancy/Food and Beverage Tax	2,985,651	14,508,383	1,487,573	10,323,403
Service Contractors and Tour Tax	338,936	573,320	4,970	643,931
RTA Tax	6,141,453	1,330,016	4,811,436	785,517
Collection Fees		(1,308,571)	-	(381,452)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,534,792</b>	<b>\$ 47,827,070</b>	<b>\$ 9,410,576</b>	<b>\$ 25,290,257</b>

### Note 9. Food and Beverage Revenue

Under the contractual agreement with the vendor allowed to operate with the Convention Center, the Authority receives various food and beverage revenue. For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority earned \$996,836 and \$1,844,019, respectively, in food and beverage revenue.

### Note 10. Cooperative Endeavor Agreements

In March 2002, the Authority entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Restaurant Association and the Greater New Orleans Hotel-Motel Association. The cooperative endeavor agreement obligates the Authority to fund a general operating reserve equal to 150% of its annual operating budget. The amount of the operating reserve recognized at December 31, 2021 and 2020 was \$78,749,693 and \$74,866,244, respectively.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 10. Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (Continued)

In March 2015, the Authority entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the State of Louisiana, Office of Facility Planning and Control of the Division of Administration, to undertake enhancement of the Convention Center and installation of basic infrastructure to facilitate establishment and development of the Convention Center District. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$142,000,000. Under the terms of the agreement, the Authority agrees to provide a match of not less than 25% of the estimated cost of the project.

In September 2015, a cooperative endeavor agreement was made between the Authority, the City of New Orleans, New Orleans & Company, and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety: Public Safety Services, Office of Louisiana State Police (LSP) in order to further enhance public safety for the continued economic development of the historic French Quarter in the City of New Orleans. The agreement was contingent upon the successful levy of a 0.2495% sales tax by the French Quarter Economic Development District, which passed in October 2015. Under the terms of the agreement, the Authority will remit \$1,000,000 per year throughout the life of the agreement for the purpose of funding additional full-time LSP officers. The term of the agreement began on January 1, 2016 and ended on December 31, 2020.

In December 2016, the Authority entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) for the acquisition of immovable property to facilitate the education and training of employees for the local hospitality industry and to provide additional space for the Authority. As part of the agreement, NOCHI entered into a 40-year lease of the building with the Authority.

In October 2016, a cooperative endeavor agreement was made between the Authority and the City of New Orleans in order to redevelop Convention Center Boulevard and Spanish Plaza. During 2017, under the terms of the agreement, the Authority deposited \$12,500,000 into an escrow account to fund traffic relocation and offsite improvements to Convention Center Boulevard and \$7,500,000 into an escrow account for improvements at Spanish Plaza in conjunction with the City's master plan to turbocharge the riverfront for the tri-centennial of New Orleans. The CEA was amended in December 2019, granting the release of \$6,000,000 from the escrow fund and transfer of those funds to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

In December 2017, a cooperative endeavor agreement was made between the Authority, the City of New Orleans, and the Downtown Development District to accomplish the public purpose of enhancing public services available to the homeless population of New Orleans by collaborating in the design, remodeling, and operation of a low barrier shelter for local homeless people. Under the terms of the agreement, the Authority agreed to provide an annual sum of \$250,000 over the five-year term of the agreement, to fund the operation of the shelter.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 11. Commitments and Contingencies

#### Self-Insurance

For 2021 and 2020, the Authority was self-insured for medical claims up to \$150,000 per participant. In 2021 and 2020, the aggregate for claims liability was \$4,982,259 and \$5,129,916, respectively. The Authority has commercial insurance to cover any excess. The Authority has an external third-party administrator for health insurance claims. Changes in claims liability during the years ended December 31<sup>st</sup> were as follows:

	<b>Beginning of Year Liability</b>	<b>Current Year Claims and Changes in Estimates</b>	<b>Claim Payments</b>	<b>Balance at Year-End</b>
2021	\$ 219,369	\$ 2,502,937	\$ (2,502,937)	\$ 219,369
2020	\$ 219,369	\$ 2,021,282	\$ (2,021,282)	\$ 219,369

#### Contingencies

The Authority is obligated under various contracts and initiatives for projects ongoing for the improvements and maintenance of the Convention Center and its property.

The Authority's ability to receive the necessary taxes and other cash sources is dependent on other third parties.

### Note 12. Pension Plans

The Authority has a Retirement Plan Fund which is a defined contribution 401(a) plan. The Authority makes contributions to the 401(a). Full-time employees are eligible for the plan following 30 days of employment. The number of participants in the 401(a) plan as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 were approximately 600. Participants in the plan have separate accounts. The Authority contributes 2% of covered employees' annual salaries to the 401(a) plan. In addition, the Authority contributes to the 401(a) plan a 50% match, up to 8% of the employees' contributions to the 401(a) plan. The Authority's contributions to the 401(a) plan totaled \$1,051,891 and \$1,064,423 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The Authority has a defined contribution 457(b) plan. The Authority's employees make contributions to the 457(b) plan. Full-time employees are eligible for the plan following 30 days of employment. Employee contributions to the 457(b) plan totaled \$1,315,972 and \$1,083,566 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

# ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY

## Notes to Financial Statements

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### Note 13. Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In June 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*. The objective of GASB 87 is to better meet the information needs of the financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that were previously classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Management is still evaluating the potential impact of adoption on the Authority's financial statements. In May 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*, postponing the effective date of GASB 87 to reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021.

### Note 14. COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 has caused disruption in operations for the Authority, cancelled events scheduled to occur at the Convention Center, and impacted the hotel tax revenue received by the Authority. Events scheduled at the Convention Center were cancelled starting in March 2020 and continued through December 31, 2021. Beginning March 27, 2020, the Authority and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness entered into a Facility Use Contract to convert the Center to a Medical Monitoring Facility. This is an ongoing agreement and has generated approximately \$580,000 and \$9,500,000 during fiscal years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively, which is included in user fees on the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

In spring 2021, the Authority resumed hosting traditional, in-person events and recognized 56 events for the year. Events that cancelled for 2020 and 2021 were rescheduled when possible or cancellation terms negotiated to maintain prospects for re-booking. This condition is national in scope as events shuffle long-term commitments based upon availability. For example, an event cancelled due to COVID in 2020 may not be able to find dates to re-book for several years causing a domino effect that impacts several destinations.

The recovery of the local tourism industry, and the related tax revenues that result, are anticipated to slowly recover over the next several years. As the New Orleans tourism industry has a partial dependence on international travel, the recovery of tax revenues will follow a longer timeline. The Authority is anticipating a steady improvement in tax revenues in the upcoming years.

The Authority continues to meet all financial obligations and intends to mitigate future negative impacts through careful budget management and determining the best use of cash, while also ensuring the Authority is ready to serve its clients when they return.

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Note 15. Subsequent Event**

In March 2022, the Authority began the initial steps to refund the Series 2012 and 2014 Refunding Bonds at their July 15, 2022 call date.

## **OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**



**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2021**

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**Agency Head**  
Michael J. Sawaya

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Salary	\$323,428
Benefits - Insurance	\$24,240
Benefits - Retirement	\$20,357
Benefits - Vision, Dental, LTD, LTC, Life	\$2,572
Car Allowance	\$10,000
Travel	\$2,260
Registration Fees	\$918
Other (Meals, Entertainment, Parking)	\$749
Cell Phone	\$900

Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513(A)(3) as amended by Act 706 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session requires that the total compensation, reimbursements, and benefits of an agency head or political subdivision head or chief executive officer related to the position, including but not limited to travel, housing, unvouchered expense, per diem, and registration fees, be reported as a supplemental report within the financial statements of local government and quasi-public auditees. In 2015, Act 462 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature further amended R.S. 24:513(A)(3) to clarify that nongovernmental entities or not-for-profit entities that received public funds shall report only the use of public funds for the expenditures itemized in the supplemental report.

See independent auditor's report.

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING  
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Commissioners  
Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority (the Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 25, 2022.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of an entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Covington, LA  
March 25, 2022

**ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY**  
**Schedule of Findings and Responses**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2021**

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**Part I - Summary of Auditor's Results**

**Financial Statements**

Type of auditor's report issued Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting

- Material weakness(es) identified? No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? No

**Part II - Financial Statement Findings**

None.

## **AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES REPORT**

Ernest N. Morial New Orleans  
Exhibition Hall Authority

Independent Accountant's Report  
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

**For the Period January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021**

To the Board of Commissioners  
Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority  
New Orleans, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority's (the Authority) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Authority has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in the LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Additionally, the LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and results are as follows:

### ***Written Policies and Procedures***

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1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
  - a) **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
  - b) **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

- d) **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- h) **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy
- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- l) **Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Board or Finance Committee***

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- 2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
  - a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

- b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the nonprofit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
- c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Bank Reconciliations***

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- 3. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
  - a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
  - b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
  - c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers )***

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- 4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
  - a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
  - b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
  - c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
  - d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
  - a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  - b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
  - d) Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
  - e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.



***Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)***

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8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
  - b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
  - c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
  - d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

[Note: Exceptions to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:
- a) Observe that the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and that supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.
  - b) Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

***Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards***

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11. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

12. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:

- a) Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

[Note: Requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); these instances should not be reported.]

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### **Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)**

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14. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)).
- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
- c) Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/ public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).

- d) Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Contracts***

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15. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:
  - a) Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
  - b) Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
  - c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).
  - d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Payroll and Personnel***

---

16. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

17. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #16 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
  - a) Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory). (Note: Generally, officials are not eligible to earn leave and do not document their attendance and leave. However, if the official is earning leave according to a policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.)
  - b) Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

- c) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
- d) Observe that the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/ pay rate found within the personnel file.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

18. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations, and the entity policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

19. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Ethics***

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20. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
- a) Observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.
  - b) Observe that the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Debt Service***

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21. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

22. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Fraud Notice***

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23. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

24. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### ***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***

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25. Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report: "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."
- a) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup occurred within the past week. If backups are stored on a physical medium (e.g., tapes, CDs), observe evidence that backups are encrypted before being transported.
  - b) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
  - c) Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use, and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

**Results:** We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

## ***Sexual Harassment***

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26. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

27. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

**Results:** No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

28. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>, and observe that it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- a) Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
- b) Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- c) Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- d) Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- e) Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

**Results:** No report was prepared for the fiscal period.

We were engaged by the Authority to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing on those C/C areas identified in Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Covington, LA  
June 22, 2022



June 24, 2022

Mr. Michael J. Waguespack  
Louisiana Legislative Auditor  
1600 N 3rd Street  
P.O. Box 94397  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9397

RE: Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority SAUP 12/31/2021

Dear Mr. Waguespack,

LaPorte CPAs and Financial Advisors issued a report for the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority's Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. One exception was noted:

*The Authority did not provide the auditors with the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period.*

While we understand that the report was not completed by the required deadline, we have since completed the report and have it on file in our office. A copy is attached. We will have the report ready for observation in future years.

If you require additional information, please contact me at 504-582-3022 or [acaparotta@mccno.com](mailto:acaparotta@mccno.com).

Sincerely,

Alita G. Caparotta  
Vice President Finance and Administration