LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

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Report Highlights

Office of Lieutenant Governor and Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

Audit Control # 80260018
Financial Audit Services • September 2026

Why We Conducted This Work

We performed certain procedures at the Office of Lieutenant Governor (OLG) and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (CRT) to evaluate certain controls that OLG/CRT uses to ensure accurate financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and overall accountability over public funds for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

What We Found

- CRT's Office of State Museum (OSM), also referred to as the Louisiana State Museum (LSM), did not have adequate policies or internal controls as it relates to maintaining sufficient documentation to demonstrate that guest stays in the apartment designated by the William R. Irby Trust (Trust) for museum-related purposes provided a tangible, direct benefit to the LSM and did not violate the Louisiana Constitution. The consequences of possible breaches of the Trust over the use of the apartment are not determinable absent legal action. LSM also did not ensure prior approval was obtained for all purchases made with funds dedicated through the Trust and did not maintain proper evidence to support approval of the annual budget. Failure to follow established policies and procedures for the expenditure of funds dedicated by the Trust and for budget authorization increases the risks that unauthorized and/or improper purchases could be made or made in excess of the LSM Board of Directors' intentions. This is the fifth consecutive engagement that we have reported weaknesses relating to the Trust.

- OSM did not ensure that admission fees for the Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum (Museum) were billed and deposited timely. Since December 2013, the Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation (Foundation) agreed to the pay the costs of admission fees so that admissions to the Museum could remain free to the public. Failure to timely bill the Foundation for admission fees results in noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement and could be grounds for the Foundation to terminate the agreement. Failure to timely deposit checks with the State Treasurer results in noncompliance with State law and places those receipts at risk of loss due to theft or misuse.

- OLG/CRT did not have adequate controls in place to ensure compliance with relevant travel policies, which increases the risk of fraudulent or unauthorized expenditures.

- OLG/CRT did not have an effective internal audit function and did not fully comply with the Institute of Internal Auditors' *Global Internal Audit Standards* (IIA Standards), increasing the risk that OLG/CRT's internal control processes will not be effective or efficient.

View the full report, including management's responses, at **www.lla.la.gov**.