1	MEETING MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2	OF THE
3	LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
4	HELD AT
5	LASALLE BUILDING, LABELLE BOARD ROOM, 1ST FLOOR
6	617 NORTH 3RD STREET
7	BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
8	ON THE 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019
9	COMMENCING AT 9:22 A.M.
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14	REPORTED BY: KIMBERLY L. GIBNEY, CCR, RPR
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1	Appearances of Board Members Present:
2	Alden Andre Nitin Kamath
3	Charles Jackson Anne Villa
4	Ame VIIIa
5	Staff members present:
6	Daria Vinning Steven Baham
7	Brenda Guess Robin Porter
8	Crystal Dalgo Susan Bigner
9	Marissa Dion Shamelda Pete
10	Molly Hendricks
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1	MR. KAMATH: Call to order the
2	Louisiana Economic Development Finance Committee
3	meeting, Thursday, February 14th, 2019.
4	MS. VINNING: Good morning.
5	Alden Andre.
6	MR. ANDRE: Here.
7	MS. VINNING: Charles Jackson.
8	MR. JACKSON: Here.
9	MS. VINNING: Nitin Kamath.
10	MR. KAMATH: Here.
11	MS. VINNING: Sue Durand.
12	(No response.)
13	MS. VINNING: Anne Villa.
14	MS. VILLA: Here.
15	MS. VINNING: We have four out
16	of five members. We have a quorum.
17	MS. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman,
18	Mandi Mitchell. And I have a point of order
19	before we begin our meeting. It has come to our
20	attention that we did not timely post today's
21	agenda on the website. The agenda was
22	physically posted outside of the room as it
23	should have been, but the piece for posting on
24	the website was not done.
25	Our legal team did look into



1	this matter, and we can proceed with all action
2	items today on our regular agenda, but we'll
3	need to ratify those actions at our next
4	meeting.
5	So that being said, I make a
6	motion to proceed with today's agenda and action
7	items despite the lack of timely notice,
8	specifically on the website, with the
9	understanding that all action taken today will
10	be up for ratification at our next meeting.
11	MR. JACKSON: Second.
12	MR. KAMATH: All ayes?
13	(Members respond aye.)
14	MR. KAMATH: Passed.
15	I understand Mr. Cooper's not
16	here yet.
17	MR. BAHAM: He's delayed in
18	traffic. He is expected in about ten minutes.
19	MR. KAMATH: Can we get a motion
20	to move forward out of the order of the agenda?
21	MS. MITCHELL: I make a motion
22	that we take the agenda out of order and move on
23	to the second agenda item.
24	MR. McDONALD: Second.
25	MR. KAMATH: Valuation of AEDC



1	Investments by Marc Katsanis.
2	MR. KATSANIS: Thanks everyone.
3	I'll just give you guys a little
4	background. We're an investment banking and
5	business valuation firm based in New Orleans.
6	And we're going to be doing an annual update of
7	the investments held by the LEDC. I want to
8	also thank the LED staff for making this process
9	very smooth. I guess I'll direct you the
10	summary of this
11	MS. VINNING: Excuse me. I
12	didn't call to order for the regular board
13	meeting to state that we have a quorum first.
14	MR. KATSANIS: Okay.
15	MS. VINNING: A.J. Roy.
16	MR. ROY: Here.
17	MS. VINNING: Alden Andre.
18	MR. ANDRE: Here.
19	MS. VINNING: Louis Reine.
20	(No response.)
21	MS. VINNING: Charles Jackson,
22	III.
23	MR. JACKSON: Here.
24	MS. GUESS: We're doing finance.
25	MS. VINNING: For finance?



1	MS. GUESS: You have to call the
2	roll for finance.
3	MS. VINNING: I did that
4	already.
5	MR. KATSANIS: I'm going to
6	direct you to Exhibit 1. In page numbering it's
7	about the page after page 33. The subject
8	matter of the valuation was really ten
9	investment companies that LEDC has an equity
10	interest in or has funded the SSBCI grants. And
11	one operating company, as I go through these
12	really quickly, the first, Aurora Ventures, is
13	an early stage investment fund, business
14	resource capital. That's more of a leader stage
15	lending fund.
16	Catalyst Fund and Healthcare
17	Innovation Fund. Those are early stage
18	investment funds.
19	Louisiana Fund is also an early
20	stage venture capital fund, same with Louisiana
21	Ventures.
22	Murphree Venture Partners is
23	sort of a leader company stage investment fund.
24	New Orleans Startup Fund is
25	really seed capital, early stage.



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1	Source Capital is essentially a
2	later stage fund that only has a few more
3	investments before it's liquidated.
4	Themelios Ventures is also an
5	early stage investment fund.
6	And the sole operating company
7	is PreSonus Audio Electronics, which is actually
8	an audio electronics manufacturer based here in
9	Baton Rouge.
10	I guess if there are any other
11	inquiries or questions, I'd be glad to address
12	those at this time.
13	MR. ROY: Mr. Chairman, I have a
14	question. Most of these were investments that
15	we made years ago. Could you I know we have
16	a report, but could you comment a little bit
17	more on the overall health of those investments
18	if they've been on the books for probably five
19	plus years, I would think.
20	MR. KATSANIS: Yes. Actually,
21	if you look at the last two columns on this
22	exhibit, you can see the capital that was
23	invested by LEDC and the to-date gain or loss.
24	The Aurora Ventures is to-date



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at a loss of 1.3 million.

1	Business Resource Capital is at
2	a loss of 420,000.
3	MS. DALGO: We're on page 71 in
4	the packet that was actually emailed or sent to
5	you in case y'all are having trouble finding the
6	page.
7	MR. JACKSON: It's cut off.
8	MR. KATSANIS: I apologize.
9	MR. JACKSON: I think it's
10	identified earlier in some of the other stuff.
11	Don't worry about it.
12	MR. KATSANIS: I can provide
13	clean copies if necessary for you guys.
14	The Catalyst Fund is essentially
15	a nonprofit, which once the investments are made
16	it's the proceeds from the exit or sale of
17	the investment goes back into the fund, and it's
18	not put on a gain or loss basis.
19	The Louisiana Fund at the
20	present time is at about 110,000 loss. The
21	Louisiana Fund is at about a 2.9-,
22	3-million-dollar gain.
23	The next one on the list,
24	Louisiana Ventures, is about 1.3-million-dollar
25	loss.



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1	Murphree Ventures is about 1.4
2	million dollars in the negative.
3	New Orleans Startup, that again
4	is another nonprofit fund.
5	Source Capital is about 1.7 at a
6	loss.
7	And Themelios Venture is about
8	147,000 loss.
9	And I guess there are two
10	investments in the PreSonus that are made of
11	different values. The first investment is at a
12	gain. The second one is at a slight loss.
13	MR. ROY: So those are based on
14	values if those entities were to be liquidated
15	today, I guess. Hopefully, they will climb out
16	of
17	MR. KATSANIS: In the future,
18	correct. This was as of June 30, 2018, as of
19	the close of fiscal year.
20	MR. ROY: And, staff, correct me
21	if I'm wrong, but we have not invested in any
22	similar type ventures in a number of years I
23	would say. Is that correct?
24	MS. GUESS: Since 2012 or '11
25	when we had SSBCI funds within the Catalyst



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Fund, New Orleans Startup Fund, and several other SSBCI ventures.

One of the things that we did after this report came out, Marc's analysis, is that we were going through the old portfolio, because as you mentioned, there are some that are, being generous, is five-plus years. But there are some that have been on the books for a very, very long time. And we're reviewing them to see what type of exit strategies were built into the ones that we do have.

There are some that there weren't any strategies from some of the older investments, but it's time for us to start purging those and see about getting out of those investments if we can.

MR. ROY: Which ones do we have a voice on? Any of them?

MR. BAHAM: I don't think we have a majority of any of the investment funds whatsoever. Even the operating companies, we don't have a majority say. Now, we do have an input and a voice with the fund managers. How much control, I guess you would say, or -- yeah, control would probably be the best word -- how



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much of that we have as far as the direction of where things are going, it's a minority share at best.

MS. GUESS: Right.

MR. BAHAM: It's been our experience, though, that the vast majority -'cause we go to the funds meeting annually and semi-annually when they're held for each one.

And the vast majority of the funds minus the SSBCI, I think there's four of those funds, all the other venture funds we're invested in, they're very old as you alluded to earlier, from the early 2000s, mid-2000 dollars, to present. So we're talking ten plus years.

Most of them have had either one or two extensions for a one-to two-year time frame, which is all that has been allowed by their funding agreements. And they're all approaching the absolute end of their time. So what we'll be seeing in the coming -- probably this year and for the next couple of years is as they're liquidating and closing out, we're desperately hoping that they're able to sell off their last remaining investments prior to the full liquidation. Because what's going to



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happen after the fund is nonexistent, is that each limited partner left holding their pro rata share of their ownership will receive stock in operating entities.

And we do not want to own stock in operating entities. We have, I believe, two on the books still that we've had for a long time. And that's how we came across those. So they're harder to liquidate private, small companies when we own stock like that.

So you will start to see a lot of these investments coming off. And we've already seen a couple over the last couple of years. I believe two years ago we had at least five more investment funds that were on the books. And now we're down to, I believe, about ten, if I'm not mistaken.

MR. KATSANIS: That's correct.

MR. BAHAM: So they're slowly closing out. But to answer your original question, we do not have a lot of control. We can voice the opinion. But it has been our experience at these meetings because we're under the impression we've been in them a very long time. And the first question at every single



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one of these meetings, whether it comes from us or another limited partner, is when will we liquidate? When will we close out? Because we've been in this for over a decade now. And that has been the consensus amongst all the limited partners in nearly every single fund that has been going on for at least ten years or more.

So we do share the same sentiments with the other limited partners that it's time. It's been long enough, and we should start to see some returns coming from these.

Now, a lot of these valuations, they have been marked down quite a bit and obviously the age of them, as I said, the funds have been around over ten years, so it's needless to say a lot of the ones that are left that are trying to liquidate, the valuation is not what it would have been several years ago. But hopefully once they sell, the market can change. And if they hold out and get a higher return, that would be fantastic.

MR. JACKSON: Some of these funds came from federal dollars. Where did the others come from?



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MR. BAHAM: The others were all LEDC dollars back in the early 2000s and mid-2000s. They were LEDC's funds that we got from appropriations, you know, down the line that accumulated over the years. And it was the current administration's opinion at the time to invest in venture capital.

felt that it was time to spur venture capital investment around the state of Louisiana because we were lacking in the equity arena as a whole, the state as a whole. So these funds, these investments, came about as a way to spur and bring on private equity investment. So we are, basically, the -- laying the groundwork with these investments here in Louisiana as far as venture capital is concerned.

So that's where those earlier ones came from, the vast majority of them. The other four were all federal dollars through the State's Small Business Credit Initiative. Those are the youngest ones that we have.

MR. JACKSON: Any money that comes back from those? Do they retain their federal character or once they come back they're



unrestricted?

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2 MR. BAHAM: They're

unrestricted. As long as the fund is operating, though, it will be part of the fund, depending on the funding agreement. We do have two of those four that are evergreens, which means any money that comes back into the fund, whether profit or loss, stays with the evergreen to make additional funds. The other two --

MR. JACKSON: How do we exit

those?

MR. BAHAM: Unless the fund totally shuts down and liquidates, then each of the limited partners gets their share of what's left up to their principal. And then any earnings, if there are any at that point, will be distributed appropriately based off of your ownership. But the intent of those evergreens was to perpetually go on forever. That was the intent.

They're both set up as nonprofit entities, and one is here in Louisiana. The other is New Orleans. New Orleans Startup Fund is one, the Catalyst Fund here in Baton Rouge is the other. Those are the two evergreens. The



1	other two investments where one is in Shreveport
2	in Alise (phonetically) if I'm saying that
3	correctly. And one in Lafayette with the
4	Lafayette General. So those two are traditional
5	VC adventure capital investment equity funds.
6	So if any returns are realized
7	with those federal dollars, they will lose their
8	identity. And once the fund starts to pay out
9	to the general partners, then we will get our
10	share of our ownership in those individual
11	funds.
12	MR. KAMATH: You mentioned these
13	are about ten years old from about 2000 to 2012
14	moving forward. What is the outlook from here
15	forward that the Department sees in more
16	investments along these lines?
17	MR. BAHAM: In new funds down
18	the road?
19	MR. KAMATH: Yes.
20	MR. BAHAM: That's hard to tell.
21	We are entertaining ideas and requests. But at
22	this point in time, there's no funds available.
23	The SSBCI dollars was the last bit of money that
24	was available for venture capital. And right



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now I don't know of any funds available to

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invest in venture capital for the foreseeable future. Now anything could happen. We could turn over a rock somewhere and find a few million dollars or the Feds could come out with a new program similar to the SSBCI that we could apply and receive federal dollars.

That seems to be the way a lot of things are going these days, is trickling down from the Feds and being distributed across the country through different means. So we have looked into those. We haven't seen anything similar to what we have with the SSBCI.

The SSBCI was unique in the sense that it offered a slew of different types of avenues to utilize this money, and it gave each individual applicant and state the opportunity to develop new programs or inject it like we did into exiting programs and write your own rules. They gave us guidelines, but every state operated a little bit differently, which we would love to see another program like that where we can utilize and leverage the Feds' dollars to benefit companies here in Louisiana, and also possibly leverage it with our existing SSBCI.



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MR. JACKSON: Over the total of 1 2 all the investments, we're less than breaking even over time, is that a fair assessment? 3 4 MR. BAHAM: On paper. 5 MR. JACKSON: On paper. That's 6 all we've got is paper. 7 MR. BAHAM: Apparently. Some of 8 these investments in these funds are still -- I would consider in the R & D phase, especially 9 the medical and biotech funds, which several of 10 them are. And if they get their licenses and 11 12 approvals through FDA and all that good stuff 13 and it comes to fruition the way that they hope 14 that it will, those values could change very 15 quickly for the better. 16 MR. ROY: To Mr. Jackson's 17 point, are there any other non-paper numbers 18 that tell the rest of the story? I mean, we 19 give grants as we know and there are intangibles 20 that are realized on the back end that we may 21 not see when we give the grant. Just wondering 22 if there are other positives that came out of 23 these VC investments that might not be realized



on valuation?

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MR. BAHAM: I don't think we

1	have any other assets on the books at this point
2	in time, not to my knowledge anyway. We have
3	had this past fiscal year a couple of these VC
4	investments that have returned some nice
5	returns, that if you look at the valuations from
6	last year and then look at the one done this
7	year, you can see that those are the ones that
8	had come off, they had actually some nice
9	returns.
10	But to my knowledge we don't

But to my knowledge we don't have any other assets besides these investments that are still lingering out there unless there's, like I said, a rock somewhere that we uncover.

MR. ROY: My question is more along the lines of possible positives that are not obviously realized in a valuation that might tell the rest of the story. Just trying to learn from the past what we might want to do for the future.

MS. GUESS: There is one -- I
think one positive in one of the investments -excuse me -- with the New Orleans -- the company
that has been invested in, I think it's
Esparron's (phonetically), Louisiana Venture



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Fund I has a very prominent list of some of their investments that they're in clinical trials with MD Anderson. It's been going on for quite a while for cancer.

You have to -- it's on the paper but it's behind the scene in knowing what some of the investments that are made for each of the ones that make up a portfolio. Those are the ones that if they were to hit, then we'd all be happy. But it's been going on for six, seven years, you know, still working to get to the trials, to get FDA. So it's those little things like that that we have that are behind the scenes that may come to fruition. We're just hopeful.

MR. ROY: So it's the nature of VC, boom or bust.

MS. GUESS: We didn't know how patient -- when we talk about venture capital being patient capital, we didn't know how much our patience was going to be tested with this. And it's very, very patient, so we'll just have to see.

MR. JACKSON: I think a lot of the venture capital likes to go ahead and get



1	out two or three rounds later and not
2	necessarily hold it all the way to the end.
3	MS. GUESS: That's correct.
4	MR. JACKSON: We didn't have the
5	luxury of that, it doesn't sound like.
6	MR. KAMATH: Any other questions
7	for the members?
8	Mr. Katsanis, do you want to add
9	anything else?
10	MR. KATSANIS: I guess you were
11	asking some positive it no longer shows up on
12	the books, but there were a few investments in
13	the past. There was investments in funds and
14	companies that have already liquidated and the
15	money's come back to LEDC.
16	There was Jefferson Capital
17	Partners, which I don't recall exactly, maybe
18	you guys do. It was at least a million,
19	two-million-dollar gain. And US Agencies, which
20	is an older one, which was an investment in the
21	auto insurance company, that had a successful
22	life and positive return.
23	MR. BAHAM: We also recently had
24	a I think it was golfballs.com based out of
25	Lafayette that was one of our first inventure



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1	fund investments, and we wound up with stock in
2	that company. And we did a workout with them
3	about a year ago. And it closed out and had a
4	nice little return.
5	So it's small successes that
6	we've seen. It's one of the few operating
7	entities that we eventually closed out and had a
8	nice positive return from.
9	MR. KAMATH: Is Mr. Aaron Cooper
10	here?
11	MS. VILLA: You'll need to move
12	to accept the Chaffe Valuation Report.
13	MR. KAMATH: Do I have a motion
14	to accept the Chaffe Valuation Report?
15	MR. ANDRE: Aye.
16	MR. KAMATH: All ayes.
17	We'll revert back to Item A,
18	financial statement by Mr. Aaron Cooper.
19	MR. COOPER: Thank you. I
20	apologize for being a little late.
21	My name is Aaron Cooper. I'm
22	the auditor for LEDC. You should have in your
23	packet a copy of the audit. This is the audit
24	for the year ending June 30, 2018. I'll refer
25	to my opinion letter first on page 3. In



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1	summary, it's a non-qualified opinion. What
2	that means is we feel like numbers are fairly
3	stated in all materials respect. It's the best
4	outcome as a result of an audit.
5	So just quickly I'm going to
6	turn to page 5. This is the balance sheet, the
7	statement of net position for the Corporation as
8	of June 30, 2018. It totaled current assets of
9	about 22 and a half million dollars. Total
10	noncurrent assets of 27 million dollars. And
11	that left us just under 50 million dollars in
12	total assets at the end of year.
13	We had current liabilities of
14	2.8 million. Non-current liabilities of 1.2
15	million. That left a total liabilities of 4
16	million. And total net position assets less
17	liabilities is 45.866 million dollars at the end
18	of the year.
19	Any questions on that?
20	(No response.)
21	MR. COOPER: All right. Over at
22	page 6, this is the statement of revenues,
23	expenses, and changes in net position.
24	Operating revenues, which
25	dividends and so forth from our investments are



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1	\$382,000. We had operating expenses of a little			
2	over 17 million dollars. That left us with an			
3	operating loss of \$16,644,000.			
4	Non-operating income, which is			
5	mostly the bidder's compensation, is almost			
6	8 million dollars. That left us a net change of			
7	a reduction in net position of 3.85 million			
8	dollars for the year.			
9	Any questions on that?			
10	MR. ROY: By chance, do you know			
11	hat our running asset balances have been over			
12	the last several fiscal years?			
13	MR. COOPER: Not off the top of			
14	my head, no, sir.			
15	MR. ROY: Just wondering what			
16	the change in position might have been over			
17	time.			
18	Any staff have any idea?			
19	MS. GUESS: No.			
20	MS. VILLA: I'll look into that			
21	and report back at the next board meeting.			
22	MR. COOPER: Anything else?			
23	We I'm going to refer back			
24	to we had no findings during the year, so had			
25	a really good audit. The hardest part of it is			



1	Marc's piece of it is getting the companies, the					
2	investees, to provide us the financial					
3	information that he needs to come up with his					
4	numbers. But everything else is very					
5	straightforward. And I know Marc works really					
6	hard in trying to get those numbers together.					
7	But other than that, it went very smoothly, so					
8	had no issues.					
9	That's all I have if there's no					
10	more questions.					
11	MR. KAMATH: Can I have a motion					
12	to accept the audit?					
13	MS. SIMPSON: Move to accept.					
14	MS. MITCHELL: Second.					
15	MR. KAMATH: How many ayes?					
16	MR. JACKSON: Aye.					
17	MR. KAMATH: Any other business					
18	that needs to be discussed with the Finance					
19	Committee?					
20	I motion to adjourn.					
21	MR. ROY: Second motion to					
22	adjourn.					
23	(Meeting adjourned at 10:06					
24	a.m.)					
25						



REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, Kimberly L. Gibney,

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5 | Certified Court Reporter, Certificate

6 No. 2016010, as the officer before whom this

7 | testimony was taken, do hereby certify that this

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11 | supervision, and is a true and correct

12 transcript to the best of my ability and

13 understanding; that the transcript has been

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15 guidelines required by statute or by the rules

of the board and that I am informed about the

17 | complete arrangement, financial or otherwise,

18 | with the person or entity making arrangements

19 | for deposition services; that I have acted in

20 compliance with the prohibition on contractual

21 relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of

22 | Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in the rules

23 and advisory opinions of the board; that I have

24 no actual any prohibited employment or

25 | contractual relationship, direct or indirect,



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1	between a court reporting firm and any party
2	litigant in this matter nor is there any such
3	relationship between myself and a party litigant
4	in this matter; that I am not related to counsel
5	or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise
6	interested in the outcome of this matter.
7	This certification is valid only
8	for a transcript accompanied by my original
9	signature and original required seal on this
10	page.
11	Signed: February 19, 2019
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14	Kimberly L. Gibney, CCR No. 2016010
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