

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2015, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on December 16, 2015. Participating were Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson and Committee members Steve Case, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, Judy Huret, Michael Lynton, Paul Neely, Alan Spoon, and Board and Executive Committee Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher and Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Acting Provost/Under Secretary Museums and Research Richard Kurin; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Office of the Provost Executive Officer Amy Marino; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 8, 2015, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Acting Provost/Under Secretary Museums and Research Richard Kurin presented the Committee with proposed topics for future meetings and discussions. Proposed topics include the digital presence of the Smithsonian; an initiative to create new scholarly positions; diversity in all aspects of the Smithsonian; the development of signature pan-Smithsonian projects; and the consideration of the Smithsonian’s strategy with regard to partnerships with government agencies, universities, and other organizations. The Committee discussed issues of access and diversity, including ways to expand the Smithsonian’s reach and connection to underserved communities, with the underlying goal of making the Smithsonian more relevant to all Americans and global citizens. The Committee also discussed the need to evaluate the success and sustainability of the Smithsonian’s signature programs, particularly those with cross disciplinary boundaries and those of science and art.

REPORT FROM THE UNDER SECRETARIES

Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown updated the Committee on recent programmatic activities. Ms. Brown highlighted the recent attention the Smithsonian Science Education Center has received for its mobile applications, including a Weather Lab application developed in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She reported that the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access has conducted the first, in a year-long series of workshops, which will focus primarily on improving the teachers' use of the Smithsonian Learning Lab. Ms. Brown also noted that the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service's *Rebel, Jedi, Princess, Queen: Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume*, which features over 70 costumes from the Star Wars saga, made its East Coast premiere at Discovery Times Square, in New York City on November 14, 2015.

Dr. Kurin reported on a cooperative transition to the Provost model, which has been positively received by unit directors. He reported on recent openings and exciting events that have occurred across the Smithsonian. The National Museum of African American History and Culture ("NMAAHC") just celebrated an evening kick-off event, which honored the three milestones in America's struggle for freedom, justice, and equality, and featured live performances and a 3D video honoring the legacy of the African American Experience projected on the building's exterior. NMAAHC's grand opening is scheduled for fall of 2016. Dr. Kurin also highlighted the re-opening of the Renwick, which has already attracted 75,000 people within just three weeks of opening. The Wegmans Wonderplace, which has recently opened in the National Museum of American History has also attracted a record number of visitors, including many children who have enjoyed the interactive education center. It is the first gallery of its kind on the National Mall that is specifically designed for the learning needs of children from infancy to age six.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Dr. Kurin then presented the exhibition calendar. The Committee reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibits, with a focus on any exhibit that might be potentially sensitive or controversial, in order to allow for thoughtful and focused planning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss a possible Smithsonian presence in London and future use of the Arts and Industries Building. Due to time constraints, Dr. Jackson asked the Office of the Regents to schedule subsequent teleconference meetings in order for the Committee to discuss the topic of membership.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:12 a.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee conducted two subsequent meetings via teleconference. The first meeting was called to order on January 11, 2016, at 4:05 p.m., during which the Committee discussed the topic of membership. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

The second meeting was called to order on February 29, 2016, at 1:02 p.m., during which the Committee discussed proposed exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, followed by a discussion on Committee membership. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:13 p.m. Both special meetings of the Committee were conducted in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair