

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2019, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Advancement Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a meeting on May 14, 2019, at the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, DC. Participating were Committee Chair Christine Udvar-Hazy and Committee members Ambassador Barbara M. Barret;\* Allan Holt;\* Dennis Keller;\* Michael Lynton;\* John W. McCarter, Jr.;\* and Frank Raines.

Present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Advancement Zully Dorr; Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Mike McCarthy; Director of Institutional Relations Rob Ritter; and Assistant Secretary for Advancement Robert Spiller.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Committee Chair Christine Udvar-Hazy called the meeting to order at approximately 2:01 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Udvar-Hazy acknowledged the final Committee meeting for Secretary David Skorton. She updated Committee members on the inaugural Regional Council Summit, which was held on May 2, in conjunction with the Annual Smithsonian Weekend.

### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2019, MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the March 12, 2019, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

Ms. Udvar-Hazy and Assistant Secretary of Advancement Robert Spiller led the Committee’s discussion on the Smithsonian’s current policies and procedures related to fundraising and gift acceptance. In response to the Board’s request to conduct a deeper review of the related policies and procedures, a workgroup will be created. The Committee will share any recommendations resulting from the workgroup review with the Board of Regents.

### **SECRETARY’S UPDATE**

The Secretary updated the Committee on fundraising priorities during his final weeks as Secretary. He will work with the Office of Advancement to ensure seamless engagement with potential prospects and current donors during the transition. Secretary Skorton also addressed the continued implementation of the Strategic Plan: Smithsonian 2022, to ensure that giving supports a wide variety of projects and programs related to the seven Strategic Plan goals.

*\*Participated by telephone*

Secretary Skorton provided an overview of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Smithsonian Weekend, which took place May 3-4, in Washington, D.C. The Annual Smithsonian Weekend is an opportunity for benefactors from across the country to explore the breadth and depth of the Smithsonian through exclusive events and programming. Constituents from the James Smithson Society, Smithsonian Giving Circles, and Smithsonian Legacy Society convened to gain insight into the Institution's priorities and learn about the ongoing work of the museums and research centers. The Secretary highlighted the Random Acts of Music Dinner Reception, which was held at the Arts and Industries Building, and provided guests an opportunity to experience the Institution-wide initiative Smithsonian Year of Music.

In conclusion, the Secretary Skorton briefed the Committee on the fundraising efforts for the collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum ("V&A") in London, the Smithsonian's first long-term exhibition presence outside of the United States. The Secretary reminded the Committee that the endeavor is being funded through philanthropy. Support is to be privately generated through the Foundation for FutureLondon and the Committee will continue to be updated on the fundraising progress.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2019 FUNDRAISING PROGRESS**

Mr. Spiller reported on the Smithsonian's fiscal year 2019 fundraising goal. As of March 31, 2019, the Smithsonian had raised approximately \$106.43 million toward its \$220 million annual goal. Mr. Spiller highlighted three recent gifts of \$1 million or more to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, American Women's History Initiative, and National Museum of the American Indian. Mr. Spiller noted that the Smithsonian is projected to exceed the fiscal year 2019 annual fundraising goal.

#### **NOTABLE GIFTS AND GRANTS**

Since the meeting of the Advancement Committee on March 12, 2019, the Smithsonian had not received any gifts with terms that require approval by the Board of Regents. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Advancement Zully Dorr presented the Notable Gifts and Grants Report and highlighted several recent gifts and grants that will support the priorities of the Strategic Plan, including gifts to the National Zoological Park, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and National Museum of Natural History.

#### **HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN SUNKEN GARDEN REVITALIZATION**

As part of an effort to increase interaction between the Committee and unit advancement offices across the Institution, when schedule and agenda permit, the Committee devotes a portion of the meeting to fundraising efforts at individual units. The May 14, Committee meeting featured a conversation with Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Melissa Chiu and Director of Advancement Maria Kanakis Yang on the museum's plans to revitalize its sculpture garden on the National Mall. Dr. Chiu and Ms. Yang briefed the Committee on the concept design for the revitalization project and initial campaign planning

efforts. Funding from the campaign is expected to support the design, planning, construction, and implementation of the garden revitalization. The Committee reviewed the materials and discussed the proposed giving opportunities and recognition levels.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no request for an executive session and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Udvar-Hazy, Chair