

## **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a videoconference meeting on November 10, 2020.

Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member David M. Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), General Counsel Judith Leonard, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 9, 2020, and October 8, 2020, Committee meetings were approved without modification.

### **REGENTS’ ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM**

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson reviewed the format of the Regents’ annual public forum to be held on December 15, 2020. The event will be held virtually in light of the recommended safety precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. She highlighted the major topics to be discussed, including an update on the Smithsonian’s response to the pandemic and the Institution’s new normal, which will include the prioritization of new and ongoing digital initiatives such as the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative; the Race, Community, and Our Shared Future Initiative; and enhanced distance learning and education resources.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Secretary Lonnie Bunch gave an update on the state of the Smithsonian, including the recent elections as related to the Smithsonian and the Institution’s reopening progress.

The Secretary briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian’s efforts to strengthen the Institution’s relationship with the Executive Branch and House and Senate Members in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, with special attention to new Regents, new committee leaders, potential oversight and legislative issues, and engagement opportunities. Following the inauguration, the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Regents will work together to onboard Vice

President-elect Kamala Harris as an ex-officio member of the Board of Regents. The Smithsonian will also strive to continue its 100-year tradition of collecting the gown the First Lady will wear to the 2021 inaugural ball as part of the Smithsonian's First Ladies Collection at the National Museum of American History.

Secretary Bunch concluded his report by reviewing the criteria that will guide the Smithsonian's decision to downgrade its reopening status in response to the changing COVID-19 situation. The Secretary noted that the Smithsonian's decision to regress will involve the evaluation of multiple factors, including any local, state, or federal "Stay at Home" orders. The Covid-19 Response Team will monitor the regression criteria and provide updates and recommendations to senior leadership to guide the Institution's regression decisions. The Secretary informed the Committee that no new museums or facilities would be reopening at this time.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee then entered into an executive session at approximately 11:23 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair