

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2022, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on December 13, 2022. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member John Fahey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch; Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; 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 1:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. Mr. Case welcomed Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr., who assumed his role as Counselor to the Chief Justice on December 5. The Committee expressed its enthusiasm for working with Judge Dow in his new role as a Smithsonian liaison.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the November 8, 2022, Committee meeting were approved.

NEW MUSEUMS SITE SELECTION

Mr. Case and Secretary Bunch discussed with the Committee the status of site selection for the two new Smithsonian museums: National Museum of the American Latino and Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. On October 27, the Smithsonian announced that the Board of Regents has narrowed its focus to two optimal sites with the greatest potential based on site-selection evaluative criteria combined with stakeholder input. Mr. Case reminded the Committee that legislative action is necessary before the Board can make its final designations. Congress authorized the museums in December 2020, and the legislation states that the Board must designate the two new museum sites by the end of 2022. The Secretary walked through various scenarios that could occur in December impacting site selection depending on any Congressional legislation that passes before the end of the year.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Case then led a discussion on the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on January 30, 2023. Mr. Case noted that although topics are being finalized, the January meeting agenda will likely include the following items: (1) the annual compensation review for the Secretary and senior executives, (2) proposed recommendations for 2023 committee

chairmanships and membership, (3) the annual report on workplace culture, and (4) key matters at the Smithsonian, including the new museums and the fundraising Campaign.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary then provided an update on the state of the Smithsonian. The Secretary first briefed the Committee on the launch of the Institution's five-year strategic plan *Smithsonian 2027: Our Shared Future (Our Shared Future)*. The Secretary informed the Committee that initial responses to the Strategic Plan have been positive, and much of the work the Smithsonian already conducts aligns with the new strategic initiatives. To ensure tangible progress, 23 pan-institutional initiatives will be tracked for the next several years, and each initiative will be led by two Co-leads who will draw on pan-institutional expertise and activities.

Next, Secretary Bunch updated the Committee on a recent audit by the Office of the Inspector General related to the Institution's purchase card program. The audit was issued in November 2022 and included seven (7) recommendations, which were primarily process related, and focused on documentation, approvals, training, review, and reporting. Smithsonian management concurs with the recommendations and has outlined actions to address them.

The Secretary also led a discussion with the Committee on inflationary cost increases and the impact on Smithsonian construction projects. A confluence of events—including increasing construction demand, inflation, pandemic-related restrictions, and supply chain disruptions—are spurring rising costs across the construction industry. The Secretary shared that the project budget for the Pod 6 Collections Storage Facility has increased by approximately \$13 million, and the costs will be absorbed jointly by the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art. The Facilities Committee will further discuss increasing construction costs at its next meeting.

To conclude the Secretary notified the Committee that on December 12, the Smithsonian participated in the first-ever White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence. Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan was one of the featured speakers at the program. The Committee acknowledged that the event exemplified the advancement of the Strategic Plan goal of harnessing Smithsonian expertise to elevate science in the global discourse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 1:36 p.m. to discuss the Smithsonian's special events policy and Smithsonian advisory board membership.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair