

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on May 11, 2021. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Dr. 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 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), Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover, Inspector General Cathy Helm, 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 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the April 1, 2021, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT TO SMITHSONIAN ADVISORY BOARD

The Committee reviewed the proposed candidates for appointment and reappointment to the Board of Trustees of the Archives of American Art (“AAA”). Mr. Case noted that the candidates presented were approved by the Governance and Nominating Committee at its meeting on May 3, and both candidates have the support of the unit advisory board, the unit director, the relevant Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Advancement, and the Secretary. The Executive Committee was asked to vote on the appointment and reappointment on behalf of the Board because the terms are slated to take effect immediately and before the full Board meets in June.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, appoints Michael Stubblefield and reappoints Leslie Garfield to the Board of Trustees of the Archives of American Art for four-year terms each, effective immediately.

## **APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS**

Next, the Committee considered the Smithsonian's fiscal year 2022 federal budget request to Congress. The Smithsonian is requesting a total of \$1,102 million for its fiscal year 2022 federal budget inclusive of \$872 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$230 million for Facilities Capital. The amounts proposed for the Smithsonian's Congressional request were approved by the Office of Management and Budget. The request includes funding for mandatory cost escalations as well as the rebuilding of the National Air and Space Museum and initial support for the two new Smithsonian museums. The Committee was asked to approve the fiscal year 2022 federal budget request to Congress on behalf of the Board of Regents because it is due to be submitted in May, prior to the Board meeting in June.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, authorizes the Secretary to submit to Congress a federal budget request for appropriated funds for fiscal year 2022 as part of the President's budget in the amount of \$1,102.0 million, as negotiated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and authorizes the Secretary to inform OMB and Congress fully about the implications of the President's budget for the mission and priorities of the Smithsonian.

## **UPDATES TO SMITHSONIAN DIRECTIVE 603 – EXHIBITION AND PROGRAM PLANNING**

Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover then briefed the Committee on proposed changes to Smithsonian Directive 603. The SD603 review is designed to help senior management identify in advance any potentially sensitive and/or controversial exhibitions and to allow for thoughtful planning and discussion. Mr. Gover noted that the directive was last updated in October 2017. The proposed changes will address the Institution's current organizational structure and clarify responsibilities and procedures for virtual educational and digital exhibits, programs, and content available outside the Institution's physical facilities. The Committee discussed the need for the directive to be structured to ensure swift and flexible review as the Smithsonian continues to offer more digital content.

## **REGENTS' JUNE MEETING**

Mr. Case reviewed the preliminary agenda for the upcoming Regents' meeting on June 14. Given the continued health and safety precautions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be conducted virtually. In addition to normal business items, the Secretary will lead strategic discussions on the status of reopening and vaccine distribution; the Race, Community, and our Shared Future Initiative; the two new Smithsonian museums; and the progress of the Virtual Smithsonian and One Smithsonian initiatives.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, specifically the Institution’s reopening status. The National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, reopened to the public on May 5. The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, and the Renwick Gallery will open on May 14. The Secretary informed the Committee that public interest and response to the reopening has been favorable, and timed entry passes have sold out quickly. All Smithsonian facilities will reopen with enhanced health and safety measures in place, including timed-entry passes, limited attendance, social distancing, mandatory use of face coverings, and enhanced cleaning. The Secretary noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) continues to update public health actions, guidance, and recommendations to limit the spread and impact of the virus. The Smithsonian will continue evaluating the Institution’s policies and procedures as the pandemic and the public health response to it evolve.

The Committee also received an update on Smithsonian leadership transitions. The Secretary shared that John Davis, the Interim Director of the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (“CHSDM”), will be leaving the Smithsonian on May 14. Dr. Davis has been named President and CEO of Historic Deerfield, Inc. in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar will serve as the Interim Director of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, effective May 15. Ms. Neuhold-Ravikumar has served as the Smithsonian’s Acting Under Secretary for Education since November 2019, and previously held the Director of Education role at CHSDM.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee entered into an executive session at approximately 10:41 a.m. to discuss potential candidates for the boards of the National Museum of the American Latino Board of Trustees and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council. The Committee also discussed potential changes to the investment incentive compensation plan that will be further discussed by the Board at the June meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair