

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on September 20, 2022. Participating were Committee Chair John Fahey and Committee members Michael Govan; Dennis Keller; John W. McCarter, Jr.; and Mitchell N. Schear. Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Ambassador Barbara M. Barrett, and Franklin D. Raines also participated in the meeting.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez; Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Stephanie Felton; 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; Chief Financial Officer Janice Lambert; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; Assistant Scheduler to Senator Leahy Ashley Morrill; Director of Federal Resources for the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Andrew Mosley; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross; Assistant Secretary for Advancement Rob Spiller; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair John Fahey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 27, 2022, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 27, 2022, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **NEW MUSEUMS SITE SELECTION**

The Committee was briefed on the status of site selection for the two new Smithsonian museums: National Museum of the American Latino (“NMAL”) and Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum (“SAWHM”). Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo reminded the Committee that the establishing legislation directs the Board of Regents to select locations for the two museums by December 2022. Smithsonian leadership and the Regents are working diligently to comply with the statutory deadline. Ms. Marengo informed the Committee that updates to the legislation might be necessary before final site selections can be determined. The Smithsonian is engaging Congressional and Federal stakeholders to address the matter.

Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park and Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez updated the Committee on the site evaluation report, which served as a preview to the larger discussion planned for the Board meeting in October 2022. The

Committee also reviewed projected cost comparisons for both new museum construction and the relocation/renovation of existing buildings.

## **OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST TO OMB**

The Committee had an opportunity to ask questions related to the read-ahead information provided on the Facilities Capital Program, including major capital projects planned for fiscal years 2023 and 2024, and the fiscal year 2024 federal budget request to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). The Institution submitted to OMB a total budget request for fiscal year 2024 of \$1,293.5 million, which included \$990.5 million for Salaries and Expenses, and \$303 million for Facilities Capital. The Committee reviewed the potential implications to major capital projects if the budget is reduced for fiscal year 2024.

## **MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES**

The Committee had an opportunity to ask questions related to the read-ahead information provided on the Smithsonian’s major capital projects, including the revitalization of the building envelope and infrastructure at the National Air and Space Museum building on the National Mall, revitalization of the Historic Core, and the construction of the collections storage building Pod 6 at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, MD.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee then moved into an executive session at approximately 3:10 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to consider and no request for an executive session, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahey, Chair