

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

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on July 27, 2022. Participating were Committee Chair John Fahey and Committee members Representative Adrian Smith; Michael Govan; Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey; Dennis Keller; John W. McCarter, Jr.; and Mitchell N. Schear. Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case also participated in the meeting.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell; Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez; 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); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Chief Financial Officer Janice Lambert; Senior Adviser to Senator Leahy Kevin McDonald; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; 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; Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

Also in attendance was Luanne Green, President of Ayers Saint Gross, who represented the architectural engineering firm consulting on the site selection process for the two new museums.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 12, 2022, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the May 12, 2022, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW**

The Committee reviewed its Charter per its mandate to annually review and assess the Charter and evaluate the Committee’s performance with respect to the requirements of the Charter. No modifications to the Charter were proposed.

### **NEW MUSEUMS**

Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez and Luanne Greene, President of Ayers Saint Gross (“ASG”), briefed the Committee 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”). 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. In June, the Smithsonian announced that the analysis of sites would primarily focus on four locations: Arts and Industries Building—a Smithsonian building on the National Mall, Northwest Capitol Site—undeveloped land located north of the Capitol Reflecting Pool, South Monument Site—undeveloped land across the National Mall from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Tidal Basin Site—undeveloped land bordered by Raoul Wallenberg Place S.W. and Maine Avenue S.W. The sites will be further evaluated by ASG to assess the capacity of each site to accommodate a museum of sufficient size, functional organization, and design flexibility. Ms. Greene reviewed the test program for each focus site and noted that while no sites have been removed from consideration, ASG is directing its efforts to the four focus sites and will provide additional details to further the discussion and evaluation of the sites at the next Facilities Committee meeting in September.

Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo also updated the Committee on the Smithsonian’s efforts to conduct a transparent, inclusive, and thorough site selection process, specifically as it relates to updating Congressional stakeholders on the progress of the two new Smithsonian museums. Congressional outreach has included staff for key local stakeholders, the Congressional Hispanic Conference, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Women’s Caucus, original sponsors of the legislation, and all the Committees named in the authorizing legislation: House Appropriations, House Administration, House Transportation and Infrastructure, House Natural Resources, Senate Appropriations, Senate Rules and Administration, and Senate Energy and Natural Resource. Ms. Marengo also reminded the Committee that a national survey and focus groups were conducted to solicit public input on the new museums. Those audience research projects concluded in March and the results will be incorporated into ASG’s site analysis and weighting of criteria.

**NAOS REVITALIZATION AT THE SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Director of the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross led a strategic discussion on efforts to revitalize the Naos Facility at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (“STRI”) in Panama. The discussion focused on three laboratory buildings, which sit at the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal, and provide access to marine research sites, including an extensive seawater system for research projects. The Smithsonian is adapting the original revitalization plan to refurbish three separate building laboratories. The Committee discussed two revitalization options, one plan based on two new buildings, and a second plan based on one consolidated building, both of which would merge program needs.

**CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND FACILITIES RESOURCES**

Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Stephanie Felton provided an update on the Facilities Capital Program, including major capital projects planned for fiscal years 2022 through 2031 and funding for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The Smithsonian requested \$265 million in federal appropriations for facilities capital for fiscal year 2023. The

proposed request for facilities capital for fiscal year 2024 is \$300 million in federal appropriations. Ms. Felton noted that the increased funding is needed to continue on-going construction and revitalization of aging facilities and highlighted the potential implications to major capital projects if the budget is reduced to less than \$300 million 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, specifically the revitalization of the Historic Core; planning of the National Air and Space Museum Integrated Bezos Learning Center; and the construction of the collections storage building Pod 6 at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, MD.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to consider and no request for an executive session, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Fahey, Chair