

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2017, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on December 12, 2017. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton, and Committee members Senator John Boozman, Representative Tom Cole, Steve Case, Michael Govan, Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Greg McAdoo.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Acting Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Patricia Bartlett, Provost/Under Secretary for Museums and Research John Davis, Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Director of the Arts & Industries Building Rachel Goslins, Inspector General Cathy Helm, Chief of Staff to Senator Boozman Toni-Marie Higgins, Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer Al Horvath, Director of the Office of Special Events and Protocol Karen Keller, General Counsel Judith Leonard, Office of the Provost Senior Program Officer Amy Marino, Chief of Staff to Congressman Cole Sean Murphy, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2017, AND SEPTEMBER 28, 2017, COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the May 8, 2017, and September 28, 2017, Committee meetings were approved without modification.

WRITTEN REPORT FROM EDUCATION AND ACCESS

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Education and Access provided a written report describing recent activities. Highlights from the report included (1) an update on the Smithsonian Secretary’s Youth Advisory Council program, which met on September 27, 2017, and hosted participants from 15 local DC metro area teens and 10 teens representing five Smithsonian affiliate museums; (2) an update on the Youth Access Grants program, which completed its seventh grant-making cycle and awarded 11 grants that totaled \$961,918; and (3) a five-year framework developed by the Smithsonian Council of Education Directors to meet the new strategic plan goal of reaching all DC metro area students by the year 2022. Hearing no questions from the Committee regarding the written report, Mr. Lynton moved to the following agenda item.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST AND EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Provost John Davis presented an update on the American Women's History Initiative, a five year initiative with a \$20M fundraising target. The Committee was briefed on upcoming engagement events surrounding the public launch of the Initiative in March 2018. Dr. Davis also shared plans for a major exhibition in 2020, as part of the American Women's History Initiative. The exhibition will open at the National Museum of American History and remain on public view for 18-24 months before it becomes a national traveling exhibition touring the country through 2026. Dr. Davis identified other separate solo art/history exhibitions featuring American women that will lead up to the opening of the major exhibition. Additional programming that will complement the exhibition include performances, concerts, cinematic features, family events, online engagement, and educational outreach. The Committee expressed a desire to promote and track public participation for the Initiative.

The Committee is charged with reviewing major programmatic initiatives and ensuring their consistency with the Smithsonian's mission and nature as a public trust. Dr. Davis presented upcoming exhibits with the Committee that are expected to generate greater than normal stakeholder interest including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's *Brand New: Art and Commodity in the 1980s*.

SPECIAL EVENTS POLICY

The Secretary advised the Committee that he and his team are analyzing potential modifications to the Smithsonian's special events policy. He and Director of Special Events and Protocol Karen Keller reviewed the policy, which currently provides for treating certain outside events as "co-sponsored" donor celebrations. Any proposed changes will be shared with the full Board in January 2018.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer Al Horvath provided an update on the implementation of the strategic plan for 2017 – 2022. Mr. Horvath's report commenced with an overview of the key focus areas identified in the plan. Mr. Horvath highlighted several of the cross-cutting focus areas for the Committee's consideration, including positioning the Smithsonian as a trusted and credible source, building and deploying digital competency, engaging audiences in new and meaningful ways, and promoting diversity and inclusion. He also proposed a strategic plan implementation oversight structure and outlined next steps for execution. Internal and public announcements of the strategic plan were made in early December, and the full implementation plan will be presented to the Board of Regents in January 2018.

THE SHORT CONVERSATION AND THE LONG CONVERSATION

Director of the Arts & Industries Building (“AIB”) Rachel Goslins reviewed the feedback and follow-up from the Long Conversation, which was hosted on December 1, 2017. The Long Conversation featured an eight-hour marathon dialogue event between leaders in the arts and sciences about what makes them optimistic about the future. Ms. Goslins framed the event as a showcase for the AIB team to preview the use of the building through the lens of solutions and optimism. She shared the positive feedback and reach of the event, including more than 60,000 Facebook Live viewers.

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson recapped the event called the Short Conversation, which preceded the Long Conversation. The Short Conversation served as the annual public forum for the Board of Regents and publicly announced the Smithsonian’s strategic plan. Event panelists Secretary David Skorton, Board of Regents Chair David Rubenstein, Board of Regents Member U.S. Representative Doris Matsui, and the Sant Director of the Natural History Museum Kirk Johnson shared how the Smithsonian will increase the Institution’s reach, relevance, and impact over the next five years. Ms. Wilkinson reviewed press coverage following the event, including an interview with Secretary Skorton on NPR.

The Committee acknowledged that both Conversations were successful and exemplified many goals of the strategic plan including convening conversations and one Smithsonian.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, and no executive session requested, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair