

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2018, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 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 3, 2018. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton and Committee members Senator John Boozman, Representative Doris Matsui, Rod Adkins, and Michael Govan.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Chief Information Officer Deron Burba; Counsel to the Inspector General Epin Christensen; Provost and Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research John Davis; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Operating Officer Al Horvath; Director of Government Relations Cheryl Johnson; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs Julissa Marengo; Executive Officer for the Office of the Provost Amy Marino; Curator of Music and Performing Arts at the National Museum of African American History and Culture Dwandalyn Reece; Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Huib Schippers; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2018, COMMITTEE MEETING

Due to lack of quorum, the vote was not conducted during the meeting. The Committee subsequently voted via email ballot to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2018, Committee meeting.

### REPORT OF THE PROVOST AND EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Provost John Davis reported on the public launch of the American Women’s History Initiative, which took place on November 13, 2018. Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs Julissa Marengo shared with the Committee that a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) has been established with Politico Media “Women Rule.” The collaboration will commence on February 28, 2019, with the launch of *Votes for Women* at the National Portrait Gallery. “Women Rule” will promote social media content, and the Smithsonian will become an official impact content provider in support of the pan-Institutional initiative.

The Provost updated the Committee on the recent Scholarly Studies Awards. Multidisciplinary projects with multiple investigators were strongly encouraged, as were projects that have obtained or are seeking external funding. A sum of \$1.5M was awarded to support individual

Smithsonian scholarship. The success rate is 33 percent, which is more generous than many competitive funding sources. The Office of the Provost is working to cultivate more robust proposals from history, art, and culture.

Dr. Davis also briefed the Committee on two personnel searches including the Director of the National Museum of American History (“NMAH”) and the Director of the Anacostia Museum (“ACM”). Interim directors are currently serving at both museums. Susan Fruchter is serving as the interim director of NMAH and Lisa Sasaki is serving as the interim director of ACM.

Dr. Davis then turned to Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Operating Officer Al Horvath to update the Committee on significant facilities work planned at the Anacostia Community Museum. Renovations will include upgrades to security and lighting systems and may require closure to the public and more details will be shared internally and externally once plans are finalized.

The Committee reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibits, with a focus on exhibits that might generate greater than normal stakeholder interest. Dr. Davis highlighted two exhibitions including *Artists Respond: American Art and the Vietnam War, 1965 to 1975*, which explores artistic reactions to the Vietnam War created during the height of the US intervention in Southeast Asia, and is scheduled to open in mid-March 2019 at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The second exhibition, *Elephants & Us: Considering Extinction*, is scheduled to open on the 30th anniversary of the historic African Elephant Conservation Act in mid-April 2019 at the National Museum of American History, which will explore Americans’ relationship with elephants as it has evolved over centuries.

To conclude his report, Dr. Davis highlighted a current exhibition for the Committee’s attention, *Magnificent Obsessions: Why We Collect*, currently on view at the Smithsonian Libraries exhibition gallery in the National Museum of American History. The exhibition was designed by Smithsonian Exhibits and features books and ephemera from across the Libraries’ holdings, viewed through the lens of the individuals who were compelled to collect, preserve, and share with the nation.

## **SMITHSONIAN YEAR OF MUSIC 2019**

Curator of Music and Performing Arts at the National Museum of African American History and Culture Dwandalyn Reece, the Co-Chair of the Smithsonian Year of Music Program Committee, provided an update on the Smithsonian Year of Music (“SYoM”) with her Co-Chair and Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Huib Schippers. Dr. Reece and Mr. Schippers updated the Committee on several SYoM activities including the preliminary results of the pan-Institutional call for proposals—31 projects were funded—and the status of external partnerships that will move activities beyond the National Mall. The year-long goals and public messaging about the initiative and the metrics for evaluating SYoM programs and operations were also discussed.

Dr. Reece outlined the 365 days of music at the Smithsonian, which will feature a music-related program every day of the year, including exhibitions, lectures, releases, workshops, educational programs, and performances. Dionne Warwick and Wynton Marsalis have been confirmed the first two Ambassadors for the Smithsonian Year of Music.

Mr. Schippers shared with the Committee the wealth of national collaborations being pursued, ranging from venues (e.g. the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and The Getty) to Festivals (e.g. Newport, Folklife Northwest, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival). Other collaborations include National Public Radio, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the National Association of Music Education.

### **COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW**

The Committee performed a provision-by-provision review of its Charter per its mandate to annually review and assess the Charter and evaluate its own performance with respect to the Charter. No modifications were proposed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, and no executive session requested, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

### **EMAIL BALLOT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee voted to approve the following motion via email ballot on December 4, 2018.

**VOTED** that the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee approves the draft minutes of the October 15, 2018, Committee meeting without modification.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair