

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2020, 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 videoconference meeting on June 25, 2020. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton and Committee members Senator John Boozman, Representative Doris Matsui, Steve Case, Michael Govan, and Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Acting Under Secretary for Science and Research Roger Brissenden, Chief Information Officer Deron Burba, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Ginny Gomez, Acting Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), Deputy General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan, Inspector General Cathy Helm, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo, Under Secretary for Administration Mike McCarthy, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Office Meroë Park, Acting Under Secretary for Education Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar, Director of the Office of Government Relations Vernon Simms, Assistant Secretary for Advancement Rob Spiller, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. He welcomed everyone to the first Committee meeting held by videoconference, and he welcomed Deputy Secretary Meroë Park to her first meeting with the Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2019, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the December 9, 2019, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

THE SECRETARY’S STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE INSTITUTION

Secretary Lonnie Bunch led a discussion on his vision for the Smithsonian and the development of a strategic priorities framework to uphold core values across the Institution’s functions and operations. He highlighted the Institution’s efforts to become a leading knowledge partner to Pre-K -12 educational systems nationwide and to build a nimble and effective core. The Secretary shared that the education plans include developing a national educational outreach strategy and a broad portfolio of educational resources, as well as scaling the Smithsonian’s Learning Lab to become a coordinated education portal. He also highlighted strategies to achieve administrative and operational efficiencies in core central functions and the Smithsonian’s organizational structure.

RACE, COMMUNITY AND OUR SHARED FUTURE INITIATIVE

Secretary Bunch then briefed the Committee on efforts to position the Smithsonian as a trusted provider of relevant, contemporary content to effectively engage the public on critical issues. On June 8, the Smithsonian announced a new initiative: Race, Community and Our Shared Future, which will transform the Institution's approach to "One Smithsonian" public programming and engage Smithsonian content experts across organizations and disciplines to explore how Americans currently understand, experience, and confront race, its impact on communities, and how that impact is shaping the nation's future. The Committee discussed possible outreach methods, such as virtual town halls, and ways to shape the initiative's content to help bring about change for a better future.

IMPLEMENTING THE SMITHSONIAN'S DIGITAL VISION

Next, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Office Meroë Park updated the Committee on creating a Virtual Smithsonian that will leverage digital capabilities and platforms to reach new audiences both nationwide and globally. As part of its response to serving the public during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Smithsonian has accelerated its digitally focused programs and activities. Deputy Secretary Park shared details on the establishment of a digital steering group, which will develop an approach for identifying digital leadership, prioritize ongoing digital initiatives, develop new digital opportunities, and investigate the ongoing integration of technology and the Smithsonian's physical presence.

Deputy Secretary Park also highlighted several initiatives in support of the digital strategic objectives including phase two of Open Access, the continued mass digitization of the Smithsonian's collections, and enhanced distance learning resources. The Committee discussed some of the global learning resources planned for the next six to twelve months, including launching bilingual learning resources and delivering a variety of options including low-tech content for those with limited online access.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Acting Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibitions and public programming. Mr. Gover reminded the Committee that physical exhibitions and in-person public programming are currently on hold during the Institution's COVID-19 closure. The Committee was briefed on long-planned exhibition openings that were slated for opening pre-closure and are expected to open based on the progress of the Smithsonian's re-opening timeline, including *Girlhood (It's Complicated)* at the National Museum of American History, *Laurie Anderson: The Weather* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and *Baseball: America's Homerun* at the National Postal Museum. Mr. Gover also updated the Committee on two cancellations: the National Geographic exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History and the opening dedication ceremony for the National

Native American Veterans Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian. A virtual opening ceremony will be held on November 11, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an Executive Session at approximately 3:09 p.m. to discuss Committee scope and membership.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:23 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair