

## **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on December 14, 2020. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member David M. Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), General Counsel Judith Leonard, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the November 10, 2020, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **REGENTS’ ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM**

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson reviewed the upcoming Regents’ annual public forum to be held on December 15, 2020. Given the safety precautions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be conducted virtually. This will be the first public forum to be hosted by the Regents exclusively online.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian’s efforts to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis as an improved organization that is equipped to address the opportunities, challenges, and choices that the nation will face in the 21st century. In the near term, as the country prepares for the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Smithsonian has a unique role to play as a trusted resource with the ability to examine and share the science, history, and culture of vaccines. This is one of many ways in which the Institution will endeavor to catalyze new conversations and address complex matters.

The Secretary also updated the Committee on the Institution’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the Smithsonian’s workforce. As part of the Institution’s short-term plan, it is preparing to set up on-site testing for COVID-19. The COVID-19 Response Team has received guidance on best practices from local governments, public health officials, and the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and will work to identify priority testing for frontline Smithsonian staff. The Secretary shared that the Smithsonian hopes to have this available in January 2021.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee entered into an executive session at approximately 1:33 p.m. to discuss confidential business and personnel matters.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair