

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 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 October 15, 2018. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton and Committee members Senator John Boozman, Representative Doris Matsui, Rod Adkins, Michael Govan, Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Bob MacDonald, and Greg McAdoo.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Chief Information Officer Deron Burba; Provost/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); Associate General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan; Inspector General Cathy Helm; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Al Horvath; Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Center Matt Larsen; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs Julissa Marengo, Curator of Music and Performing Arts at the National Museum of African American History and Culture Dwandalyn Reece; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2018, COMMITTEE MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the June 10, 2018, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **REPORT OF THE PROVOST AND EXHIBITION CALENDAR**

Provost John Davis provided the Committee with three personnel updates. Following a competitive search, Steven Monfort was named the John and Adrienne Mars Director of the Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. Chase F. Robinson, currently president of The Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Distinguished Professor of History, will become the Dame Jillian Sackler Director of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art. Dr. Davis also informed the Committee that Lisa Sasaki, Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, has agreed to serve as Interim Director of the Anacostia Community Museum, following the passing of Lori Yarrish, the former Director.

Next, Dr. Davis briefed the Committee on the status of the American Women’s History Initiative (“AWHI”), including an upcoming engagement event hosted by the Secretary on November 13.

*\* Participated by telephone*

An advisory committee is being formed to guide the comprehensive pan-Institutional project and inform strategies for researching, documenting, collecting, and sharing women's contributions in American society. Dr. Davis also announced that more than \$1 million in program funds would be available to support the Initiative through collections care, programming, and digital projects.

The Committee reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibits, with a focus on exhibits that might generate greater than normal stakeholder interest. Dr. Davis called one exhibition to the Committee's attention, *100 Faces of War*, which is being presented by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibit was developed through the eyes of soldiers who participated in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters.

Dr. Davis then highlighted three recently opened exhibitions: (i) *Between Worlds: The Art of Bill Traylor* at the Smithsonian American Art Museum; (ii) *Rebeca Méndez Selects* at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; and (iii) *America's Listening and 3 West Gateway*, at the National Museum of American History.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN: RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

The Smithsonian Strategic Plan defines seven goals for greater reach, relevance, and impact. The Committee's discussion focused on goal five of the strategic plan: driving large, visionary, interdisciplinary research and scholarly projects. Dr. Davis presented three preliminary focus areas for the Committee's consideration, enhancing the Smithsonian's areas of scholarship through external partnerships and collaborations, increasing scholarly communication, and building creative opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Matt Larsen, a leader of the goal five Strategic Plan team, led a discussion on the Institution's contributions to scholarship and the support of scientific, scholarly, and educational research collaborations. Dr. Larsen presented five key initiatives working to advance knowledge across disciplines on a national and global scale: the Smithsonian Conservation Commons, Marine Global Earth Observatory, Forest Global Earth Observatory, the American Women's History Initiative, and the Year of Music. The Committee discussed the importance of collaboration across traditional boundaries in the natural and physical sciences, history, art, culture, and humanities. The Committee agreed that increased visibility of current and future projects is critical to highlighting the Smithsonian's unique role as the world's largest museum, education, and research complex.

Next, Dr. Davis described the Smithsonian's evaluation program for scholarly accomplishments across the Institution through Professional Accomplishment Evaluation Committees ("PAEC"). The PAEC process will ensure common, measurable goals across the Smithsonian, while benchmarking the Institution's scholarly output with peer organizations. Dr. Davis also expanded upon the science communications strategy launched by the Provost and Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, which will publicize the Smithsonian's vital interdisciplinary research contributions identified through the PAEC process.

## **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 2019. Throughout the year, Smithsonian Music, the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and units across the Institution will bring together the Smithsonian's vast music resources in history, art, culture, science, and education to engage the public and increase awareness of music at the Smithsonian. 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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, and no executive session requested, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair