

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, 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 meeting on September 26, 2019. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton\* and Committee members Representative Doris Matsui,\* Steve Case,\* 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; Director of Corporate Relations for the Office of Advancement Lindsey Burkholder; 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; Associate General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan; Senior Program Officer for Digital Strategy Effie Kapsalis; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs Julissa Marengo; Executive Officer for the Office of the Provost Amy Marino; Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Mike McCarthy; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019, COMMITTEE MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the February 25, 2019, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **OPEN ACCESS**

Provost and Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research John Davis led a strategic discussion on the proposed February 2020 target to announce an Open Access strategy at the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian Open Access Initiative will release 3.3 million 2D and 3D images into the public domain with the internationally-recognized Creative Commons license (“CCO”). With the announcement, the Smithsonian also will launch a variety of platforms to make its collections media, collections data, and research data available for educational and research endeavors, creative reuse, computational analysis, and innovative explorations. The Committee received an overview of the planning and progress towards the anticipated launch of the initiative.

Dr. Davis highlighted the eight implementation teams, comprised of more than 80 Smithsonian staff members, who have been tasked with developing policy, guidelines, strategy, and

\*Participated by telephone

technical specifications to realize the launch of the Open Access Initiative. The initial launch of the Smithsonian Open Access Initiative will include images from 11 different museums, libraries, and archives. The full scope of the Open Access Initiative could eventually encompass the majority of the Smithsonian's 155 million objects, 2.1 million library volumes and 156,000 cubic feet of archival collections in 19 museums, 9 research centers, libraries, archives and the National Zoo.

Director of Corporate Relations for the Office of Advancement Lindsey Burkholder and Senior Program Officer for Digital Strategy Effie Kapsalis discussed partnership categories and potential philanthropic partners, including individual, corporate, and foundation prospects. Ms. Burkholder and Ms. Kapsalis also outlined opportunities for in-kind support that focused on promotion, content, and engagement.

#### **SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL PROGRAMMING REVIEW**

The Committee engaged in a conversation about the program evaluation process used for content on the SNI/SI Network ("Smithsonian Channel"). Dr. Davis provided an overview of the program evaluation process, which is managed by Smithsonian Enterprises, and explained that all Smithsonian Channel programs are reviewed by the Smithsonian for factual accuracy and any potential reputational risks.

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

Provost John Davis provided the Committee with personnel updates. On August 5, Dr. Melanie Adams began her tenure as the new Director of the Anacostia Community Museum, succeeding the late Lori Yarrish. Dr. Davis also shared that Associate Provost for Education and Access Patty Bartlett and Director of Smithsonian Libraries Nancy E. Gwinn have both announced their retirements effective September 2019 and December 2019, respectively. Dr. Davis reported on the proposed organizational restructure, which will merge the Smithsonian Archives and Smithsonian Libraries. Dr. Davis also updated the Committee on the search for a Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, to succeed former director Lonnie Bunch following his election as the fourteenth Secretary of the Smithsonian. Dr. Davis announced that the Smithsonian has selected Spencer Crew to serve as Acting Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture while the Institution engages in a competitive executive search.

The Committee then reviewed the calendar of recent and upcoming exhibitions. Dr. Davis detailed three exhibitions including *The Evidence Room* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which was on display from June through September 2019, and drew upon extensive archival and forensic research of Auschwitz that was dismantled and destroyed at the end of WWII. The second exhibition, *The Outwin 2019: American Portraiture Today*, is a triannual portrait competition scheduled to open on October 26, 2019, at the National Portrait Gallery, which will showcase mastery and innovation in the portraiture form. The third exhibition Dr. Davis reviewed is a signature exhibition planned for the National Museum of American History

as part of the American Women's History Initiative. *Girlhood (It's Complicated)* is expected to open in June 2020 and will explore how girls have been on the front lines of social and cultural change through unexpected stories about youth movements and women's history of girlhood in the United States.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, and no executive session requested, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair