

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2023, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) met on March 23, 2023, at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C. Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey; Vice Chair John Fahey; and Committee member Barbara M. Barrett.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Acting General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr., called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey reviewed the agenda, which consisted primarily of an overview of the April 3, 2023, meeting of the Board of Regents.

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the February 14, 2023, meeting.

### OVERVIEW OF THE APRIL 3, 2023, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

#### **Regents’ Dinner**

On Sunday, the Board of Regents and the Secretary will convene for a dinner at the National Museum of African Art. Prior to the dinner, Regents will have the opportunity to view the museum’s *Iké Udé: Nollywood Portraits* exhibition.

#### **Regents’ Morning Tour**

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that the overarching theme of the April meeting of the Board of Regents will be the national reach of the Smithsonian. On Monday, April 3, prior to the start of the business meeting, the Regents will tour the Suitland Collections Center in Suitland, Maryland. This campus serves as the Smithsonian’s principal off-site storage and conservation facility. The Regents will have an opportunity to explore the campus and consider the current and long-term requirements for stewardship of the Smithsonian’s unrivaled collections, especially as the Institution strives to reach an audience beyond Washington, D.C.

### **Regents' Morning Business Meeting**

**Report of the Chair and Executive Committee:** Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey will deliver her first report of the Chair and Executive Committee. She will review actions approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** The Regents will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda ("Agenda"). Action items on the Agenda will include approval of the January Board meeting minutes, appointments and reappointments to Smithsonian advisory boards, proposed amendments to the bylaws of the National Museum of African Art Board, and gifts and naming recognitions.

**Questions on Written Committee Reports:** The Regents will then have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Advancement Committee, Facilities Committee, Smithsonian National Board, and Office of Government Relation.

**Report of the Governance and Nominating Committee:** Committee Chair Roger Ferguson will present the report of the Governance and Nominating Committee. The Board will be asked to consider the deaccession and return of a second set of Benin Bronzes to Nigeria, a nomination to the Order of James Smithson, and proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Regents. The Board also will move into executive session at the conclusion of the report to consider a matter related to Smithsonian Advisory Boards.

**Luncheon Program – A National Institution: Smithsonian Science:** During lunch, members of the Smithsonian's leadership team will join the Regents for a panel discussion to share how they are collaborating on a pan-Institutional level and harnessing Smithsonian expertise to elevate science in the global discourse. This program will be the first in a series highlighting work that is truly One Smithsonian.

### **Regents' Afternoon Business Meeting**

**A National Institution: The Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge Beyond the Beltway:** To begin the afternoon session, the Secretary and his leadership team, including Under Secretary for Education Monique Chism and Head of Digital Transformation Becky Kobberod will lead a discussion on how the Smithsonian is expanding its reach beyond Washington, D.C. to the broader national audience. The discussion will be framed with an overview of the strategic plan implementation, followed by a deep dive on two strategic focus areas: education and digital transformation.

**Strategic Report of the Secretary:** Next, Secretary Bunch will deliver the Strategic Report of the Secretary and update the Board on the state of the Smithsonian. The Secretary will provide updates on a new MOU with the State Department; the Smithsonian Channel documentary-competition series, *The Exhibit: Finding the Next Great Artist*; personnel searches; and other administrative matters.

**Regent Retrospective:** To conclude the afternoon open session of the meeting, the Regents and staff will have an opportunity to hear from departing Regent Steve Case, who will provide a retrospective of his tenure as a Regent.

**Regents-Only Executive Session:** The Board will then move into a Regents-only Executive Session to discuss vacancies and agendas for future Board meetings.

**Gatekeepers' Session:** The Board will conclude the April meeting with its regular session to hear from the "gatekeepers" of the Institution.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair

## EMAIL BALLOT

The Executive Committee voted to approve the following motion on behalf of the Board of Regents, according to Board Bylaw 3.01, because the Board was not in session. The Committee was asked to approve the fiscal year 2024 federal budget request to Congress on behalf of the Board of Regents because it was scheduled to be delivered in March, prior to the Board meeting in April. The motion was approved via email ballot completed on February 16, 2023.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, authorizes the Secretary to submit to Congress a federal budget request for appropriated funds for fiscal year 2024 as part of the President's budget in the amount of \$1,241.0 million, as negotiated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and authorizes the Secretary to inform OMB and Congress fully about the implications of the President's budget for the mission and priorities of the Smithsonian.