

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on September 6, 2022. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member John Fahey.

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, Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), 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. Mr. Case informed the Committee that Jeffrey P. Minear announced his retirement from his position as Counselor to the Chief Justice of the United States, effective September 30, 2022. The Committee recognized Mr. Minear for his 16 years of service to the Smithsonian and the Board.

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

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the August 9, 2022, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2023 FEDERAL AND TRUST CONSOLIDATED BUDGET**

The Secretary presented the fiscal year 2023 federal and trust consolidated budget for the Committee’s consideration. Secretary Bunch informed the Committee that the budget request includes an organizational change request, which will formally merge the Smithsonian Latino Center into the National Museum of the American Latino and merge the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative into the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. It was also noted that the Smithsonian expects to begin fiscal year 2023 operating under a Continuing Resolution (“CR”). The Committee reviewed the projected financial needs of the Institution and the potential challenges for the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian’s fiscal year 2023 federal appropriation request is \$1,174.5 million, which includes \$909.5 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$265 million for Facilities Capital. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the budget on behalf of the Board of Regents because approval was required prior to the next meeting of the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, (1) approves the budget of appropriated funds for fiscal year 2023 when signed into law by the President, and the Institutional budget totaling \$679.9 million for Trust funds for fiscal year 2023 as reflected in this report, and (2) authorizes expenditures by the Secretary in accordance therewith. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST TO OMB**

Next, the Secretary briefed the Committee on the fiscal year 2024 federal budget request to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). The Smithsonian is requesting a total of \$1,293.5 million for its fiscal year 2024 federal budget, inclusive of \$990.5 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$303 million for Facilities Capital. The request includes funding for digital support and education programming, the two new Smithsonian museums, major capital projects, and facilities maintenance. The Committee was asked to approve the fiscal year 2024 federal budget request to OMB on behalf of the Board because it is due by September 12, 2022, prior to the Board meeting in October.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the Smithsonian Institution’s \$1,293.5 million appropriation budget request to the Office of Management and Budget for fiscal year 2024. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

### **OCTOBER BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Case then led a discussion on the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on October 24, 2022, including the 2023 Board Leadership Elections, an update on the search for the next citizen Regent, approval of a Central Trust endowment draw, and key matters at the Smithsonian, including the strategic plan and the new museums.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary then provided an update on the state of the Smithsonian and previewed topics he expects to discuss with the Board at the October meeting.

Secretary Bunch first briefed the Committee on the status of site selection for the two new museums. In June, the Smithsonian announced that the site analysis for the two new museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum—would primarily focus on four locations. The four sites under further consideration are: Arts and Industries Building, Northwest Capitol Site, South

Monument Site, and Tidal Basin Site. The Institution is continuing to engage Congressional leadership about potential legislative action that may be necessary before the Board of Regents can make a final determination on site selection. The Secretary will further brief the Board at the October meeting.

The Secretary also updated the Committee on the deaccession of Benin Bronzes from the National Museum of African Art. At the June 2022 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the Secretary's request to deaccession 29 Benin Kingdom court style artworks in the collection of the National Museum of African Art and transfer title and return the artworks to Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments as the representative of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Secretary informed the Committee that the Smithsonian is planning a ceremony here in Washington, D.C. on October 11 to celebrate the return of the Benin Bronzes.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 1:39 p.m. to discuss potential Smithsonian advisory board appointments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, 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 motion required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the Board meeting in October, to accommodate appointment terms and the onboarding of new advisory board members. The motion was approved via email ballot completed on August 26, 2022.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the proposed slate of candidates for appointment or reappointment to 14 Smithsonian Institution Advisory Boards.