

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) met on October 17, 2024, 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 Barbara M. Barrett, and Committee member Franklin Raines.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch; Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Chief Legal Officer Jennifer McIntyre; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Counselor 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 October 17, 2024, 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 September 3, 2024, meeting.

### OVERVIEW OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2024, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

#### **Regents’ Dinner**

On Sunday, October 27, the Board of Regents will convene for a dinner at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Prior to the dinner, Regents will have the opportunity to view the *Sightlines: Chinatown and Beyond* exhibition, which is being presented by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. The exhibit opened to the public on September 7, 2024.

#### **Regents’ Morning Tour**

On Monday, October 28, prior to the start of the business meeting, the Regents will tour the *OSGEMEOS: Endless Story* exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum. Regents will have an opportunity to explore the first US museum survey and largest US exhibition of work by artists and identical twin brothers Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo.

#### **Regents’ Morning Business Meeting**

**Report of the Chair and Executive Committee:** Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey will deliver the Report of the Chair and Executive Committee. She will recognize transitions for Congressional Regents. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey also will brief the Regents on upcoming events and 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 June Board meeting minutes, appointments and reappointments to five (5) Smithsonian advisory boards, 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; Audit and Review Committee; Compensation and Human Resources Committee; Facilities Committee; Governance and Nominating Committee; Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee; Smithsonian National Board; and Office of Government Relations.

**Report of the Finance Committee:** Committee Chair Frank Raines will present the report of the Finance Committee. The Board will be asked to consider the proposed \$12.61 million loan from the Central Trust to build a 4-megawatt solar array at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center campus in Edgewater, MD.

**Trust-Funded Construction Projects:** The Secretary will lead a discussion on construction projects funded by the Central Trust, including an update on the Bezos Learning Center. Facilities Committee Chair John Fahey will also lead the Board’s discussion on the proposed expansion at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center located in Chantilly, Virginia.

**Report of the Investment Committee:** Departing Committee Chair Katie Hall will present the report of the Investment Committee. The Board will be briefed on the state of the Smithsonian’s Endowment and investment operations.

**Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence:** The Secretary and Head of Digital Transformation Becky Kobberod will then lead a discussion on digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence (“AI”). The Board will receive an update on efforts to build a digital-first Virtual Smithsonian while representing disciplines across the arts, sciences, history, culture, technology, and design.

**Report of the Secretary:** Next, Secretary Bunch will deliver the Report of the Secretary and update the Board on the state of the Smithsonian. The Secretary will provide updates on the status of the legislation for the new museums and opportunities for immersive experiences.

**Luncheon Program – Our Shared Future Rural Initiative:** During lunch, Under Secretary for Education Monique Chism and Director of Rural Initiatives Andy Mink will lead a discussion on strengthening the Smithsonian education community, with a focus on the Smithsonian’s Rural Initiative.

#### **Regents’ Afternoon Business Meeting**

**America250 and the Smithsonian:** The Regents will then be briefed on the Smithsonian’s plans for the 250th anniversary of the United States’ founding in 2026. The Secretary will highlight the opportunities that the Smithsonian may have to celebrate both on and off the National Mall. The update will also focus on fundraising, the festival on the National Mall, and regional partnerships.

**Regents-Only Executive Session:** The Board will then move into a Regents-only executive session, during which the Board is expected to review the Regents’ 2024 annual self-assessment, receive an update on the search for citizen members of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and vote on Board leadership for 2025.

**Executive Session with the Secretary:** The Board will then continue its deliberations in an executive session with the Secretary to receive an update on the progress of searches for senior-level positions and discuss confidential matters.

**Gatekeepers’ Session:** The Board will conclude the October meeting with an opportunity to hear from the “gatekeepers” of the Institution.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:28 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 motion required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the Board meeting in October, to accommodate the timing of related public announcements. The motion was approved via email ballot completed on September 25, 2024.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, accepts the gift and recognizes the generosity of David M. Rubenstein to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute and names the David M. Rubenstein Family Giant Panda Habitat, for 10 years.

## EMAIL BALLOT

The Executive Committee also voted to approve the following motions on behalf of the Board of Regents, according to Board Bylaw 3.01, because the Board was not in session. The motions required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the Board meeting in October, to accommodate the timing of related public announcements and the appointment term, respectively. The motions were approved via email ballot completed on October 15, 2024.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, recognizes the generosity of FedEx Corporation and accepts the terms of the sponsorship agreement.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the appointment of Olugbenga Agboola to the Advisory Board of the National Museum of African Art for a three-year term, effective immediately.