

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2024, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a meeting on October 1, 2024. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton and Committee members Toni Bush, Steve Case, Franklin D. Raines, and Fred Ryan.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Inspector General Nicole Angarella, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary Craig Blackwell, Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Ron Cortez, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), Acting Chief Information Officer Carmen Iannacone, Head of Digital Transformation Becky Kobberod, President of Smithsonian Enterprises Carol LeBlanc, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo, Chief Legal Officer Jennifer McIntyre, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park, Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan, and Counselor and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. The Committee also welcomed Carmen Iannacone, who is serving as the Smithsonian’s Acting Chief Information Officer.

The Committee also discussed a new meeting format that will include two standing topics: (1) a focus on strategic plan implementation through deep dives on a handful of key strategic initiatives, and (2) a regular update on the Smithsonian’s digital transformation efforts.

REVIEW OF THE MAY 6, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the May 6, 2024, Committee meeting were approved.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Next, Mr. Lynton reminded the Committee that the strategic plan outlines five broad focus areas: Digital, Nimble, Trusted Source, Science, and Education, which are being implemented and measured through 23 strategic initiatives. As part of the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee’s role in overseeing the development, periodic refreshment, and implementation of a pan-Institutional strategic plan, the Committee discussed and agreed on a proposal to focus on six of the strategic initiatives from the *Our Shared Future: Smithsonian 2027* strategic plan. Specifically, the Committee will focus on Digital Strategy, Collections

Stewardship, Rural Initiatives, Sustainability and Resiliency, STEAM Education, and Education Strategy. These initiatives will be brought individually to the Committee in subsequent meetings and the discussion will include the senior leaders tasked with the implementation. The goal of focusing on these key initiatives is to generate discussion, solicit feedback, and garner new ideas and recommendations for further development.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Head of Digital Transformation Becky Kobberod then updated the Committee on the Smithsonian's digital transformation. The Institution is continuing to prioritize efforts to build a digital-first Virtual Smithsonian while representing disciplines across the arts, sciences, history, culture, technology, and design. The Office of Digital Transformation is expanding the Smithsonian's digital reach and prioritizing cost-effective, innovative, and ongoing digital initiatives to reach audiences across the nation and around the world. Ms. Kobberod reviewed progress since the launch of the Office of Digital Transformation in 2021, and highlighted benchmarks on both the external and internal focus areas that have been advancing the Institution's digital transformation efforts. Moving forward, strategic drivers will focus on delivering a transformed audience experience as part of the America250 celebrations; prioritizing efforts to increase internal partnerships and collaborations; and prioritizing exploration and implementation of AI use cases that will enhance and unlock the Smithsonian's collections, further scientific research, increase staff efficiencies, and improve the Smithsonian audience experience. Ms. Kobberod also noted that the Board of Regents would receive an update on digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence ("AI") at the October meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an Executive Session at approximately 1:57 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair