



Chair Chellie Pingree
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for the Arts and Humanities Hearing
Panel 2
June 8, 2022

As Prepared

I would like to welcome our second panel, Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III, the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Kaywin Feldman, Director of the National Gallery of Art, joining us to discuss their FY 2023 budget requests and their collaborative projects.

I want to note that this is Secretary Bunch's first time testifying before the subcommittee, so I am eager for the opportunity to learn more about your vision for the Institution.

In 2021, the Smithsonian celebrated a milestone, its 175th anniversary. We hope today's hearing will provide an opportunity for you to discuss how you imagine the treasures, research, data, and scholarship of the Smithsonian will be used to achieve your mission, the increase, and diffusion of knowledge, in the next 175 years.

The FY 2023 budget request is \$1.175 billion, an increase of \$112 million over the FY 2022 enacted level. We look forward to discussing how this requested increase will support the Smithsonian's digital transformation, education goals, robust research programs, and make essential investments in both the facilities and the workforce.

The FY 2023 National Gallery of Art budget request is \$209 million, an increase of \$28.7 million over the FY 2022 enacted level. The FY 2023 budget request represents an exciting time of change for the National Gallery as it moves forward with both renovations to the main Gallery buildings as well as the construction of the Pod-6 joint storage facility in cooperation with the Smithsonian. Furthermore, the Gallery's budget includes strategic investments in additional staff to support its work to advance racial equity from the artists whose work is being displayed to the Gallery's staff and audience.

According to the Gallery's budget request, in FY 2019 over seven million people benefited from the Gallery's online presence, and over thirty-three million people utilized free educational resources from the Gallery. In addition to the broad engagement these statistics show; the Gallery makes hundreds of art loans available across the country to benefit Americans beyond those that can make the trip to visit the Gallery in person. I look forward to hearing more about efforts to expand this engagement and work towards your other priorities Director Feldman.

Secretary Bunch and Director Feldman, I appreciate the work you and the employees of the Smithsonian and the National Gallery do to advance the civic, educational, scientific, and artistic life of this nation.

I look forward to your testimony this afternoon and to hearing more about your plans for your organizations through the next fiscal year.



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I would now like to yield to our Ranking Member, Mr. Joyce, for his opening remarks.