

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2026

To: Members, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing titled “Rewriting American History: Examining the Smithsonian’s Efforts to Reshape the Past”

On Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency will host a hearing titled “Rewriting American History: Examining the Smithsonian’s Efforts to Reshape the Past.”

I. BACKGROUND:

The majority of the Smithsonian’s budget consists of the roughly \$1 billion annual appropriation it receives from Congress. Yet, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History is promoting a narrow, politically tendentious agenda instead of seeking to instill in visitors an appreciation for America’s unique history as a beacon of liberty, democracy, and opportunity. This is a view out of step with the very purposes for which the Museum and the broader Smithsonian exist and receive public support. The evidence for the ideological takeover of the Museum is well documented in a report from the White House Domestic Policy Council recently released on July 4, 2026.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the Domestic Policy Council’s July 4, 2026, report and hear from expert witnesses to determine the extent to which the Museum is accomplishing the public purpose for which it is intended and receives federal funding.

III. WITNESSES:

Dr. Anthea Hartig

Director, National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution

Mr. Mike Gonzalez

E Pluribus Unum Senior Fellow
Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy
The Heritage Foundation

Dr. Matthew Spalding

Kirby Professor in Constitutional Government and
Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government
Hillsdale College