

Statement of Dr. David J. Skorton, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution
On the Fiscal Year 2017 Request
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
March 23, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your subcommittee today. On behalf of the entire Smithsonian Institution, we appreciate the continued generous support of the Congress and your confidence in us to understand, preserve and tell the story of America. Your investment in the Smithsonian is an investment in advancing the civic, educational, scientific, and artistic life of our nation. This unique public-private partnership has worked well since the Smithsonian was founded in 1846. From care and display of the Star-Spangled Banner to research on the Zika virus, we take our obligation to the American people seriously and leverage federal dollars with private support to greatly expand and enhance our reach and capabilities.

As a public trust, the Smithsonian addresses some of the world's most complex issues, preserves many of our nation's greatest treasures, educates and enlightens millions, conducts ground-breaking research, and uses new technologies to broaden access to information for the public, and for policy makers. In keeping with our mission, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge," the Smithsonian is a world leader in research and discovery, addressing today's relevant issues and helping the American people understand our role in the world through science. We are also leaders in understanding the human condition and adding meaning to life through the arts and humanities.

In July, I was privileged to begin my tenure as the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian. I am honored to be a part of this great Institution, I have learned so much from the talented staff, committed volunteer corps, and the first rate research and educational efforts that touch millions of Americans, including millions who are unable to visit the museums in Washington and New York each year. There is no other institution like the Smithsonian in the world. As a friend of mine once said, "It is everything under the sun."

The Smithsonian is a resource of extraordinary value for the American people and the world. So, I am not only proud of what the Smithsonian has done, but am excited by what we are planning to do with your continuing support.

Today, I would like to share just a few of the Smithsonian's achievements over the past year and then discuss with you the two bases for our Fiscal Year 2017 (FY) appropriations request: (1) strengthening our intellectual foundation and programs; and (2) strengthening our physical infrastructure.

Within these two categories, our FY 2017 request builds on the progress and achievements made over the past few years, and addresses some of the biggest challenges to our continued success. For example, we are gearing up for a major revitalization of the National Air and Space Museum and working to improve our physical infrastructure in many other areas. In addition, the budget request improves our collections stewardship; addresses the significant loss of curatorial staff; supports several important research efforts; and continues the digitization of our collections to

greatly enhance the public's access to the collections. We recognize this is a time of limited resources and appreciate your consideration of our requests in the context of the many difficult decisions you make.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

The Smithsonian is large and diverse, encompassing art, history, science, education, and culture, and our reach is extensive. We operate 19 museums and galleries, 20 libraries, nine research centers, the National Zoo, have more than 138 million objects in our collections, and partner with 208 affiliate museums in 46 states, Puerto Rico, and Panama. We are open 364 days a year, and (with one exception) admission is free. We have research and education facilities in eight states and the District of Columbia, and are involved in more than 145 countries. For the last full fiscal year, our museums had more than 28 million visits and another 4.5 million people visited our traveling exhibition.

In 2015, we welcomed our panda cub Bei Bei at the Smithsonian National Zoo. The Renwick Gallery, home to the Smithsonian American Art Museum's craft and decorative arts program, reopened to the public in November 2015 following a comprehensive two-year renovation, featuring restored historic features and an entirely new infrastructure. Its debut exhibition "WONDER" has hosted more than 367,900 visitors in its first 4 months and has become a sensation on social media, with more than 177 million audience-generated social media impressions in that same timeframe.

Overall, our visitors enjoyed nearly 100 new exhibitions, including: "The Great Inka Road" at the National Museum of the American Indian; multiple exhibitions in the National Museum of American History's (NMAH) renovated West Wing, including "American Enterprise," "Giving in America," and the Smithsonian Libraries exhibition "Fantastic Worlds: Science and Fiction, 1780–1910"; the high-tech Immersion Room at the renovated Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; "Shirin Neshat" at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; "Peacock Room REMIX" and "Sōtatsu" at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery; "The Divine Comedy" at the National Museum of African Art; "Bridging the Americas" and "Twelve Years that Shook and Shaped Washington" at the Anacostia Community Museum; "New York City" at the National Postal Museum; and "Richard Estes' Realism" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Many exciting things loom on the horizon, none of which could happen without your support. Most notably, the stunning new National Museum of African American History and Culture that will open on the National Mall on September 24, 2016. The Freer Gallery of Art recently closed for major renovations and is scheduled to reopen in spring 2017.

The Smithsonian's diverse music-related collections are so extensive that they would comprise the largest music museum in the world if they were all in one place. A new initiative, Smithsonian Music, is bringing together all of our museums' rich musical resources for the first time: nearly 16,000 musical instruments from every style of music, extensive scholarship, numerous signature programs, exhibitions, education, and performing artist ensembles. The new website at the heart of this initiative will help teach about our nation's history and culture and its worldwide connections.

If you can't come to us, we're coming to you. In FY 2015, the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service sent large and small exhibitions to museums and provided educational materials to schools and libraries for a total of 44 exhibitions in 386 communities across 49 states, Australia, Canada, Guam, and Puerto Rico, reaching a diverse audience of 4.5 million people.

A DIVERSE NATION

As a steward and ambassador of cultural connections, the Smithsonian's work helps to build bridges of mutual respect and understanding of the diversity of American and world cultures. The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.

The Smithsonian Latino Center was created to promote Latino presence within the Smithsonian and, thus, better tell the story of Latinos in America. The Smithsonian is grateful to the members of the subcommittee for their on-going support of the Latino Initiatives Pool, a federal fund managed by the Smithsonian Latino Center that provides financial support to Smithsonian units for exhibits, research, collections, conservation, archival work, and school and public programs. Since 1995 more than 400 Smithsonian programs and projects have received Latino Initiatives Pool support totaling more than \$20 million.

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage supports the understanding and sustainability of cultural heritage and diversity in communities across the United States and around the world. The Center produces the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, maintains and makes accessible the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, produces extensive research and educational materials and promotes cultural heritage policy for the benefit of communities around the United States and the world.

Established in 1997, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center is a national resource for discovering and showcasing the consequence and complexity of the Asian Pacific American experience through exhibitions, programs, and digital experiences.

We are international and local. I am working with the Mayor and her colleagues to establish a D.C. Youth Advisory Council to help the Smithsonian reach a new generation of local followers and to hear directly from them about how we can most effectively reach and inspire this generation. Our first meeting is coming up in a few weeks.

We reach an ever-increasing group of interested and engaged members of the public through our business arm, Smithsonian Enterprises (SE). It is more entrepreneurial than ever as our Smithsonian magazines are now read by more than eight million people, the Smithsonian Channel is distributed by the top-ten cable and satellite TV operators and reaches a total of 34 million households. Our multiple digital offerings attract more than 9 million followers per month. Across all SE media, we're reaching more than 50 million people a month.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Joseph Henry, the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, felt limiting the scope “to one city, or even to one country,” would be “an invidious restriction” of the institution. In 1850 he wrote, “The worth and importance of the Institution are not to be estimated by what it accumulates within the walls of its building, but by what it sends forth to the world.” So, for 170 years we have cast a wide net.

We are active in more than 145 countries by coordinating with strategic partners across the Federal government, and working with foreign governments and private sector partners.

We leverage our strengths with international partners for greater impact. One example is our work in cultural heritage preservation. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the Smithsonian collaborated on the recovery effort, helping to save more than 35,000 cultural objects. International collaboration allowed us to come together more quickly to launch recovery efforts following the destruction of historical treasures in Mali, the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal, and the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq. In October 2015, we convened a group of leading international cultural heritage preservation specialists at the National Museum of American History for a symposium, “Uniting to Save World Cultures.” We recently partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a network of more than forty government and non-profit organizations dedicated to protecting cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies here in the U.S. And in May 2016, the Smithsonian will for the first time host the training course *First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis*, an effort to train an international group of first responders to protect cultural heritage.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH, COLLECTIONS AND CONSERVATION

Our exhibitions, outreach, and public programs are known to many Americans but perhaps less well known to the general public are our collections, conservation work, and scholarly research across many disciplines.

Conservation

Smithsonian experts work to preserve stories and species, artifacts and artworks. Coral and plant samples are cryogenically preserved. Languages in danger of being lost are meticulously studied, detailed and safeguarded for future generations. Priceless paintings worn by the ravages of time are painstakingly restored to their original beauty. Asian elephants are tracked and conserved using satellites in Myanmar.

Collections

Much of our expertise derives from the care and study of our collections, which total 138 million objects, including 127 million scientific specimens, 340,000 works of art, and two million library volumes. We also care for 157,000 cubic feet of archival material, millions of photographs, and more than 2,000 live animals. We are constantly improving storage conditions and balancing the preservation of and access to these collections as well as strengthening our collections care staff. We have leveraged our federal support in this area through philanthropic fundraising for additional positions for

collections staff to address our pressing needs and to maintain our vital national assets. These collections are a boon to scholars and learners of all ages.

Digitization

Our museums and libraries have created digital images of approximately two million objects, specimens, and books, and electronic records for more than 26 million artifacts and items in the national collections. We are leaders in the field of 3D scanning in museums, allowing our treasures and specimens to be seen in an entirely new manner.

Digital technology also allows us to reach new, diverse audiences more than ever before. In 2015, our more than 200 websites attracted more than 100 million unique visitors. In social media, we have more than eight million followers on Facebook and Twitter, with tens of thousands more engaging with us on other Internet platforms.

Cutting Edge Scientific Discovery

The Smithsonian's 500 scientists are tackling vital issues of the day, making important discoveries - and sharing them with the public. For example, scientists at the Harvard-based Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory are using telescopes in outer space to discover new planets. They have discovered an exoplanet dubbed a "mega-Earth." Found in the constellation Drago, Kepler-10c is a rocky world weighing as much as 17 Earths.

Smithsonian scientists work to help save endangered, vulnerable, and threatened species around the globe, such as Asian elephants, giant pandas, Panamanian golden frogs, African kori bustards, Asian tigers, Przewalski's horse, the African scimitar-horned oryx, coral reefs, North American black-footed ferrets, Cuban crocodiles, Asian clouded leopards, and more.

Preventing Pandemics

In today's world of long-distance travel and new technologies, deadly viruses can reach around the globe very quickly, and nearly 75 percent of emerging pathogens in humans come from animals. With that in mind, the Smithsonian is working with the USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threats Program to help public health officials avoid the next major pandemic. Veterinary scientists and pathologists from the National Zoo are conducting regional wildlife pathology workshops to train biologists and conservationists to recognize and identify the next global health threat in its initial stages. These actions, in turn, will prove vital to help prevent potential pandemics from occurring.

Biodiversity

With our international partners and worldwide reach, the Institution is particularly well connected to study biodiversity issues. The Smithsonian's ForestGEO (Global Earth Observatories) network is a worldwide partnership of more than 95 institutions working to monitor the health of six million trees (10,000 species) on 63 plots in 24 countries. Our new initiative, Tennenbaum Marine Observatories, or MarineGEO, seeks to replicate this success and assess the health of coastal areas and the oceans at large, with the goal of determining how to manage these critical resources.

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) is the leading partner in a global effort called the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), a 10-year project that will become a key repository of scientific information about virtually every form of life on Earth. EOL is an online database that has financial, logistical, and research support from numerous partners, including the MacArthur and Sloan Foundations. The NMNH also houses the Consortium for the Barcode of Life, an international initiative that uses our premier collections to develop DNA barcoding as a global standard for the identification of biological species.

Smithsonian scientists and collections help the world to respond to new global challenges. Right now, as we scramble to learn more about the spread of the Zika virus, the Department of Defense partners with the National Museum of Natural History to study and map the outbreak, while the National Zoo examines how it might spread through non-human vectors, and our Tropical Research Center — originally founded to study mosquito-borne disease during construction of the Panama Canal — is examining the Zika-carrying *aedes aegypti* mosquito genomics. All of these separate components will improve our understanding of the virus and inform public health strategies.

At the National Museum of Natural History and the Museum Support Center that houses much of its collections, you will find researchers from over 40 different federal agencies; at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, we operate NASA's Chandra X-ray telescope; at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, we collect data for the Coast Guard to prevent the spread of invasive species; and at the Museum Conservation Institute, our advancements in artifact preservation inform the State Department on the best techniques for cultural recovery in disaster and combat zones. By sharing access to our collections and data, we prevent costly duplication of efforts and improve the ability of other agencies to fulfill their missions.

EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL REACH AND IMPACT

As part of our mission for the “diffusion of knowledge,” the Smithsonian serves millions of people annually with many educational offerings at a wide variety of ages and educational attainment. We deliver educational materials to students of all ages and teachers in all 50 states each year. More than 2,000 learning resources, all tied to appropriate standards, are available online for free.

This summer, the Smithsonian's Center for Learning and Digital Access (SCLDA) will launch a major digital initiative, a web-based Smithsonian Learning Lab providing extensive digital access to Smithsonian collections to inspire the transmission and transformation of knowledge resources for the public good. The lab will offer a focused experience targeted to educators and students, but open to all.

Similar to our research efforts, many of our examples of educational outreach involve productive partnerships. The Smithsonian partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create a \$30 million Youth Access Endowment at the Smithsonian to fund innovative, multidisciplinary education projects that reach students and teachers in underserved regions around the country using digital strategies for outreach, collaboration, and outcome-based evaluation. “The Smithsonian is a national treasure,” Bill Gates said. “We must support its place in American education, culture and world history.”

The recent passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act cements the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for a 21st-century education. The Smithsonian Science Education Center recently concluded a five-year Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education validating our Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) model as a systemic approach to transforming STEM. Our study demonstrates that inquiry-based science improves student achievement not only in science but also in reading and math in elementary and middle school. The Smithsonian's LASER model can play an important role in bolstering student learning, especially among underserved populations, including children who are economically disadvantaged, require special education or are English-language learners. We also realize and promote the power of the arts and humanities to galvanize and cultivate the creative thinking so necessary to succeed in a global marketplace.

For more than 25 years, the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center (SEEC) has provided a high-quality pre-K educational program for children ages 2 months-Kindergarten using a museum-based curriculum. With three sites, two inside the National Museum of Natural History and one inside the National Museum of American History, SEEC provides leadership within the educational community. SEEC is also a model laboratory school, sharing its expertise with museums and early childhood educators around the world through the Center for Innovation in Early Learning. Our Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center is supporting "Wegmans Wonderplace," a new space at our National Museum of American History that inspires the imaginations of young children from across the country and the world.

FY 2017 SUMMARY OF REQUESTED FUNDS

The Smithsonian's FY 2017 budget request continues to reflect the implementation of our Strategic Plan, which provides the framework for the Institution's programs and operations. The FY 2017 request totals \$922.2 million, including \$759.2 million for Salaries and Expenses (S&E) and \$163 million for Facilities Capital projects.

The Institution's FY 2017 request for S&E reflects an increase of \$63.2 million from the FY 2016 appropriation for increases, including fixed costs such as pay, utilities and rent, and support for program goals and objectives, in addition to facilities and security support for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture that will open to the public in September 2016.

The request for fixed costs increases totals \$16.5 million, including \$6.3 million to address additional salaries and benefits costs from the proposed 1.6 percent pay raise in January 2017, and \$1.7 million for annualization of the January 2016 pay raise. These amounts are offset by a decrease of \$303,000 in Workers' Compensation costs. The fixed costs request also includes an increase of \$8.8 million for utilities, rent, communications, and other accounts. More specifically, the request includes an increase of \$4.8 million for consumption and rate changes in the utilities accounts and \$2.7 million for inflationary increases and program needs in rent accounts. In addition, we are requesting increases of \$1.3 million for Communications and Other Support to provide for fixed software licensing and maintenance costs, cover inflationary increases for library subscriptions, and meet other regulatory compliance requirements.

As indicated above, our budget request encompasses two categories: (1) strengthening our intellectual foundation and programs and (2) strengthening our physical infrastructure.

INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATION AND PROGRAMS

Workforce Challenge

One of our foremost priorities is to reverse the long term trend in the loss of curatorial and research staff. The hiring strategy requires new employees to have skill sets that enable the creative acquisition and exhibition of our vast and unique collections while ensuring the availability of collections for critical research within the scope of our mission.

In addition to the federal request in this budget, we recently launched “The Smithsonian Secretarial Scholars” initiative with a goal of hiring 40 new curators in 5-year term positions funded through philanthropic support. We already have nine positions pledged in the first few months of this initiative.

Another program priority request includes \$508,000 to staff a Smithsonian Cultural Crisis Recovery Center. The additional funding will strengthen and enhance the Smithsonian’s ability to respond to requests for assistance with cultural heritage recovery and preservation in the United States and around the world, often working with such partners as FEMA, USAID, the Departments of State and Defense.

The Institution acknowledges support from the subcommittee during the FY 2016 budget cycle, and includes a request of \$342,000 to increase the number of program staff specializing in the history, art, and culture of Latino/Hispanic Americans. They will support exhibitions, public programs and educational activities, and connect networks of Latino cultural, scholarly, and educational organizations throughout the U. S. The request also includes \$300,000 to support the Asian Pacific American Center to increase programming that promotes a better understanding of the Asian American experience by coordinating activities across the Institution and with external partners.

Basic Research

The requested program increase for Smithsonian research activities for FY 2017 is \$5.2 million. The increase includes \$2 million for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, to complete the first phase of the Greenland Telescope project. When completed, the telescope, a 12-meter radio antenna, will form the northernmost node of a Very Long Baseline Interferometer that will allow scientists to observe supermassive black holes and conduct very high frequency observations of the cold universe.

The request also includes an increase of \$360,000 to coordinate efforts in genomic research across the Institution and with federal, national, and global partners. Dedicated resources will support researchers who will develop standards, implement protocols for collection, analyses and maintenance of data, and provide for the curation of public data repositories and bioinformatics pipelines. An additional \$800,000 is requested to support the Forest Global Earth Observatories for data collection in tropical and temperate forests, and \$640,000 for Marine Global Earth Observatories to expand the network of data collection sites dedicated to understanding changes in marine

ecosystems. The request also includes \$300,000 to initiate efforts in microbial research to fill in significant gaps in the Smithsonian's research priority areas, and \$600,000 for staff to coordinate scientific activities across disciplines and locations throughout the Institution. These activities focus on environmental change, habitat fragmentation, and other areas of conservation research.

Care of Our National Treasures

Smithsonian collections, obtained over 166 years, serve as the intellectual basis for scholarship, discovery, exhibition, and education. Stewardship of the collections includes the systematic development, documentation, management, preservation, and use of collections. The requested increase of \$4.7 million for FY 2017 supports activities within this priority. This amount includes \$2.7 million for curatorial and collections management staff at several units for high-priority positions which have remained vacant for extended periods due to competing budgetary priorities.

The request includes \$1.5 million that will allow the Collections Care and Preservation Fund to build on important planning initiatives to address collections management, emergency preparedness, and space needs throughout the Institution. The highest funding priority continues to be projects that improve the preservation, storage, and accessibility of collections currently at risk of loss or damage. The request includes an additional \$500,000 to provide needed resources for the National Zoological Park's Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia, a facility for the welfare of the animals in our living collection. The request includes funding for veterinarian and animal keeper positions to care for quarantined or hospitalized animals and to minimize the risk of transferring disease to other animals or people. The request for SCBI is a key element of the Zoo's mission of saving species.

Digitizing collections and supporting documentation broadens access to the Smithsonian's vast resources. In FY 2015, more than 400,000 images were created for existing collections, more than doubling the rate of digitization at the Smithsonian. The request includes \$2.1 million to accelerate existing digitization activities by turning time-limited, mass-digitization prototypes into production and providing staff to the digitization efforts at several units.

STRENGTHENING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Institution's request includes an increase of \$14.5 million to enable the Smithsonian's facilities maintenance staff to continue stabilizing and standardizing the overall condition of approximately 12 million square feet of owned and leased buildings and structures, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research centers and the National Zoological Park. The request provides funding for maintenance required to keep facility systems performing in accordance with their design criteria and also enable the staff to react to emergencies in a timely manner. The broad range of ages, uses, and locations of Smithsonian's buildings has a major impact on the overall cost of their maintenance. The request also provides the necessary resources to maintain building systems, structures, and equipment at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall.

The FY 2017 request includes an increase of \$15.6 million to address high-

priority operating, safety, and security requirements of the Smithsonian's physical infrastructure. The amount includes \$5.0 million for cleaning, operations, safety, and routine repairs of facilities, and \$6.1 million to increase security at the most visited museums. The request includes an increase of \$4.5 million for the National Museum of African American History and Culture that will open to the public in September 2016. The request also responds to facility analyses that identified areas throughout the Institution where higher levels of security will reduce risk to staff, visitors, and collections.

The Institution's expanding reliance on information technology (IT) requires continuous investment to upgrade and replace aging IT security infrastructure. The request of \$2 million includes funds for security monitoring, response and assessment, and replacement of the Internet firewall. The request will also enable the Institution to update intrusion-detection systems and Web proxy servers.

Management

The Institution's FY 2017 request for management operations totals \$1.8 million. The request includes \$338,000 for a comprehensive, mandated training program that will provide supervisor training for the myriad rules, regulations, and policies governing employee supervision, and \$289,000 to expand the Smithsonian's Office of Equal Employment and Minority Affairs' Supplier Diversity Program. The program demonstrates support for the Institution's use of small, disadvantaged, women - and veteran-owned businesses in Smithsonian operations. In the areas of legal services and the protection of sensitive data, the Internal Controls request of \$1.1 million provides additional resources of \$1 million for the Office of the General Counsel to manage increasing activities in cybersecurity, privacy, risk management, ethics, international activities, and complex business transactions. The request also includes \$143,000 for a privacy specialist to deliver essential support to the Smithsonian community.

Facilities

The Institution's FY 2017 request for the Facilities Capital is \$163 million. The amount includes \$50 million for construction of the National Air and Space Museum's collections module at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia; \$83.6 million for revitalization projects; and \$29.4 million for planning and design of future projects.

The requested funds for FY 2017 will enable the Institution to continue major revitalization work at the National Museum of Natural History (\$19.1 million), the National Zoological Park (\$26.0 million), and the National Museum of American History (\$5.0 million). In addition, these funds will allow the Smithsonian to perform revitalization work at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) (\$3.0 million); National Museum of the American Indian (\$2.05 million); Anacostia Community Museum (\$1.2 million); Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (\$2.7 million); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (\$1.0 million); Museum Support Center (\$2.25 million); Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (\$1.75 million); Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (\$1.5 million); Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (\$2.85 million); and the Suitland Collections Facility (\$2.0 million). The request also provides for revitalization projects throughout the Institution costing under \$1 million each, and for program support (\$13.25 million). Furthermore, this request accounts for planning and design of future

projects (\$29.35 million).

As noted earlier, the Facilities Capital request includes \$50 million to construct the Dulles Storage Module at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, adjacent to Dulles International Airport. The expansion of collections space at the Smithsonian's Dulles site establishes a permanent facility to take collections from the aging "temporary" buildings of the Garber facility in Suitland, Maryland, which are being phased out after 60 years of service. In the near term, the first storage module will serve the Museum's immediate need for temporary collections swing space during the upcoming National Air and Space Museum's Revitalization project.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Smithsonian can do all that we do because, since its founding in 1846, it has been a successful public-private partnership. Public funds help secure private funds. In FY 2015, we raised \$229.6 million in philanthropic funds, the largest amount ever raised by the Institution in a single year. Our first-ever national philanthropic fundraising campaign has so far raised \$1.35 billion — more than 90 percent of the \$1.5 billion goal. Our fundraising efforts are made vastly easier thanks to federal support.

We can do all this important work for the American people thanks to more than 6,500 dedicated employees: scientists and scholars, curators, researchers, historians, and experts in fields from astrophysics to zoology, along with the talented and committed support experts from security personnel to facilities maintenance professionals, as well as 6,300 on-site volunteers, 767 research fellows, 1,263 research associates, 1,606 interns, and 6,000 digital volunteers — brain power that benefits the Smithsonian and the world many times over. They are all committed to their work and the Smithsonian.

The Institution is becoming more innovative, disciplined, focused, nimble, and self-reliant. We are determined to expand access to all we offer to new and diverse audiences — regardless of where they live. We face a future that holds both exciting opportunities and imposing challenges. Working with the Congress and the Administration, the Smithsonian will aggressively address these challenges and take full advantage of many new opportunities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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