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Smithsonian Institution

Office of General Counsel

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 3, 2022

RE: Your Request for Smithsonian Records (request number 708566052)

This responds to your request, dated and received in this Office on March 24, 2022, for the “meeting agendas and meeting minutes during Calendar Year[s] 2021 and 2022 to date of the National Museum of the American Latino Board of Trustees.” The Smithsonian responds to requests for records in accordance with Smithsonian Directive 807 – Requests for Smithsonian Institution Information (SD 807) and applies a presumption of disclosure when processing such requests. The policy is posted on our website at <http://www.si.edu/OGC/Records-Requests>.

Enclosed are four pages of responsive material. Please note that all of the documents are appropriate for release without redaction and are provided in their entirety.

This concludes the Smithsonian’s response to your request. Thank you for your interest in the Smithsonian.

Best Wishes,


Jessica Sanet
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure

You have the right to appeal a partial or full denial of your request. Your appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Smithsonian Institution Office of General Counsel at the address below, SIRecordsReq@si.edu, or (202) 357-4310 (fax number), and made within sixty days from the date of this response letter. Your letter must explain your reason(s) for the appeal. The Smithsonian Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer will decide your appeal and will respond to you in writing. You also have the right to request mediation services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), within the National Archives and Records Administration, to resolve disputes about the withholding of information. Your request for mediation should include language authorizing OGIS to make inquiries on your behalf, including the right to review all documentation that OGIS deems necessary regarding your request. You should note that you understand that any documents you provide to OGIS, except those provided in confidence, may be copied and forwarded to Smithsonian Institution officials as a part of the dispute resolution process.

**Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Virtual Meeting
National Museum of the American Latino Board of Trustees**

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees (“Trustees”) of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Latino was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Due to recommended safety precautions related to COVID-19, the Meeting was conducted via videoconference.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present

Kevin Gover, Under Secretary for Museums and Culture (ex officio)
Margarita Paláu-Hernández
Franklin D. Raines
Raul A. Anaya
Emilio Estefan
José E. Feliciano
Rick Gomez
Alberto Ibarguen
Dr. J. Mario Molina
Henry R. Muñoz III
Soledad O’Brien
José Luis Prado
Alfredo Rivera
Representative Jamie Herrera Beutler
Representative Tony Cárdenas

Staff/Representatives for Trustees

Satchel Kaplan-Allen, Representative for José Andrés
Luis Balaguer, Representative for Sofía Vergara

Smithsonian Staff

Greg Bettwy, Chief of Staff to the Secretary
Nancy Bechtol, Smithsonian Facilities Director
Eduardo Díaz, Interim Director of the National Museum of the American Latino and Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center
Zully Dorr, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Advancement
Julissa Marenco, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer
Jennifer Pichardo, Senior Advancement Officer, Smithsonian Latino Center
Dereck Ross, Deputy Director, Construction Division
Vernon Simms, Director, Office of Government Relations
Sarah Sosa-Acevedo, Gift Planning Officer, Office of Advancement
Robert J. Spiller, Assistant Secretary for Advancement
Alexssa Todd, Advancement Support, Smithsonian Latino Center

Other Participants/Guests

Victor Arias, Jr., Managing Director, Diversified Search Group
Jason D. León, Managing Director, Diversified Search Group

Luanne Greene, President, Ayers Saint Gross
Paola Moya, Founder & CEO, Moya Design Partners

Welcome and Introductions

Interim Director Eduardo Díaz called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. EST and welcomed the Trustees, Smithsonian staff, and other guests to the first meeting of the National Museum of the American Latino Board of Trustees. The meeting was conducted via videoconference.

Mr. Gover also welcomed the Trustees and provided remarks on the Smithsonian's mission, the importance of telling the full American story, and why the National Museum of the American Latino is such an important addition to the Smithsonian. Mr. Gover provided a brief overview of his leading a new museum as well as the Secretary's experience in serving as founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Gover stated the importance of having a National Museum of the American Latino in highlighting the impact Latinos have had in shaping this country.

Mr. Gover also noted that the Latino Museum has the benefit of nearly 25 years of the Smithsonian Latino Center's efforts resulting in a successful history of exhibitions, collections acquisitions, public and educational programs, and publications about the U.S. Latino experience.

Mr. Gover also noted that the African American History and Culture Museum had a physical presence through operating a gallery at the American History Museum for seven years before the museum opened and that the Molina Family Latino Gallery will serve this same purpose for the National Museum of the American Latino.

Mr. Díaz facilitated the introduction of Trustees and asked that they briefly share a few comments about joining the Board.

Director Search Update

Mr. Bettwy provided an overview of the search process and an update on the progress of the search committee. Mr. Arias outlined the outreach strategy and noted there was a significant level of interest in the position.

Representative Cárdenas asked about market competitiveness. Mr. Bettwy explained that there is a careful balance between market demands and the Institution as a public trust and that the Smithsonian engages an executive consulting firm to help price these positions to ensure compliance and competitiveness.

Mr. Muñoz suggested that the Smithsonian consider having a representative of the Board of Trustees on the Search Committee. Mr. Bettwy confirmed that Mr. Prado is serving as a representative on the Search Committee to provide that perspective.

Site Selection Update

Mr. Díaz introduced Nancy Bechtol, Smithsonian Facilities Director, to share updates on the Latino Museum Site Selection.

Ms. Bechtol updated the Trustees on the Site Selection schedule and its initial phases, including the evaluation and construction process. She noted that the Site Selection process is underway and will be followed by project phases of planning and programming, including building engineering and design analysis, environmental impact studies, construction, or revitalization, building out finishes and exhibitions installation, and collections storage and management.

Ms. Bechtol also shared the project timeline and milestones and informed the Trustees that the Site Selection evaluation study would be completed by December 2022.

Ms. Bechtol introduced Luanne Green, from Ayers Saint Gross, who reviewed the phases of the site selection process. Ms. Green discussed the Site Selection Map from the reports of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, noting the four sites Congress required the Regents to consider for the Latino Museum. Ms. Greene further noted that the twenty-four (24) sites referenced in the Map include areas under the jurisdiction of a variety of federal entities, including the Architect of the Capitol, the National Park Service, the General Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Ms. Greene then introduced Paola Moya, from Moya Design Partners, who provided additional information on the process of engaging stakeholders and the community with respect to site selection. Ms. Moya in part shared that they are engaging with stakeholders in various cities, including Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Chicago, and Miami, and will be hosting town hall meetings in 2022 to continue gathering information and engaging diverse communities.

The Trustees engaged in a discussion regarding the Site Selection options and the related provisions of the National Museum of the American Latino legislation.

Update on the Molina Family Latino Gallery

Mr. Díaz briefed the Trustees on the Molina Family Latino Gallery project. Mr. Díaz reiterated that the Molina Gallery will serve as the interim physical presence for the National Museum of the American Latino and operate for ten years at the National Museum of American History on the National Mall.

Mr. Díaz informed the Trustees that \$28 million had been raised for the Molina Family Latino Gallery, surpassing its \$24 million goal months ahead of opening.

Mr. Díaz then provided a virtual tour of the Molina Family Latino Gallery, including the Meet Us, Accessibility Kiosk, the inaugural exhibit titled *¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States*, Exhibit Cases, History Consoles, Foro/Plaza with the Digital Storytellers, the Learning Lounge, and Mapping the U.S. Latino Experience. The presentation ended with a preview of the Somos video that will be featured in the Somos Theater.

Q&A and Discussion

Representative Cárdenas moved for a vote to schedule another meeting before the May 2022 board meeting so that the Trustees can vote on the Bylaws and elect Officers for the Board of Trustees. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Trustees voted to schedule another meeting before the May 2022 board meeting.

Mr. Díaz stated that Smithsonian staff will coordinate and organize another Board Meeting before the May 2022 Board Meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Díaz thanked all the Trustees for their participation and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m. EST.