

ANNUAL REPORT 2017|2018

**Office of International
Relations and Global
Programs**

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear partners - both inside and beyond the Smithsonian,

I am so proud to share this next edition of the Office of International Relations' (OIR) annual report, which highlights our team's accomplishments from January 2017 to January 2018. I have to admit, with all that we've been working on over the past few years in rebuilding OIR, and reimagining the Smithsonian's approach to global engagement, it is sometimes tempting to think of our mandate and role as new.

This notion couldn't be further from the truth. In 1848, just two years after Congress accepted James Smithson's gift to our country and founded the Smithsonian, our first Secretary, Joseph Henry, founded the International Exchange Service (IES). Why? Because he believed that "the worth and importance of the Institution is not to be estimated by what it accumulates within the walls of its building, but by what it sends forth to the world." (Joseph Henry, 1850)

Our next Secretary, Spencer Baird, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, further expanded the role of the Smithsonian's IES on behalf of the U.S. Government. Staff you see pictured to the right, such as Solomon Brown and Mazie Fountaine, spent their days cataloguing our best work, packing it up in crates, and loading these crates onto horsedrawn carriages. The Smithsonian's latest discoveries traveled to Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. And in return, our global partners shared their findings with us. The IES brought the Smithsonian to the world, and the world to the Smithsonian.

Today, 170 years after the founding of the IES, we in OIR are rooted in this earliest history of our Institution and looking to the future. As we all embark upon the Smithsonian's new Strategic Plan, which calls for "One Smithsonian," and imagines us reaching one billion people in the next five years, global engagement is all the more important.

More than anything, I am thankful to OIR's dedicated and energetic team, who every day brings tremendous joy and grit in following IES's footsteps in new and creative ways. We all believe in Joseph Henry's assertion – that the worth of the Smithsonian is what we share with the world. And what do we all have to share? Our energy, our creativity, our openness to learning from others. As we continue this longstanding tradition of global engagement, together we can all contribute to meaningful change, both here in the U.S. and globally.

Warmly,



Molly Fannon
Director, OIR (top row, L)

1891



2018



The International Exchange Service (top) and OIR (bottom).
1891 photo: Smithsonian Archives.

OUR MISSION + VISION

The new [Smithsonian Strategic Plan](#) envisions an Institution with greater reach, greater relevance, and profound impact. This new plan reflects the reality that we are indeed a global organization. To achieve the ambitious vision of our new strategic plan, we must collectively leverage our global networks and influence. The mission we set for OIR five years ago is therefore even more relevant today:

“To advance the Smithsonian’s mission, ‘the increase and diffusion of knowledge,’ by leveraging the research, creativity, and expertise of the entire Institution to promote meaningful change in the world.”

In 2018, we will continue striving to expand the Smithsonian’s global reach, bringing our work closer to addressing the world’s most complex challenges, and helping the Smithsonian drive meaningful change – in the U.S. and around the world.

OIR works to fulfill this mission in four priority areas:

Coordinating Smithsonian Global Engagement

- Relationship management with key global partners
- Representing the Institution with One Smithsonian voice

Promoting Smithsonian Global Thought Leadership

- Communicating our global impact
- Elevating the Smithsonian on a global stage

Supporting Smithsonian Global Programs

- Developing opportunities in priority international areas
- Managing effective global program implementation

Coordinating Smithsonian Global Operations

- Providing comprehensive immigration support
- Mitigating risk and ensuring safe global operations



As part of the Smithsonian Global video series, OIR Digital Communications Specialist Isabella Roden and videographer Maria Sanchez interview Lourdes Sugasti, a researcher at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s (STRI) Barro Colorado research station in Panama.

Photo: Beth King, STRI.

OIR'S YEAR AT A GLANCE

January 2017-January 2018

\$6M
in new awards
to support
Smithsonian-wide
initiatives

300%
audience
growth for
Smithsonian
Global website

2000
international
visitors from
142
countries

100
U.S. Department
of State Officers
briefed on
Smithsonian's
global reach

181
country inventories
available with
background on
Smithsonian global
activities

2
branded
exhibits staged
at the World
Economic
Forum in Davos

10
videos produced
to share
Smithsonian's
global impact

40M
youth
worldwide
with access to
Smithsonian
content

COORDINATING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

OIR builds and manages relationships with key international partners, sharing information across the Smithsonian about major global programs and priorities. With *One Smithsonian* voice we can better achieve our collective global aspirations.

Highlights from 2017 - 2018:

In 2017, OIR continued our work breaking ground with new funders for Smithsonian programs. Our global reach and programs can attract new streams of funding if we are strategic about new partnerships. In one instance, OIR led significant research and built new relationships with potential new funders and partners interested in Smithsonian climate change research, biodiversity conservation, and global health. This work built an additional pipeline of up to 60 million euros in near-term opportunities for Smithsonian signature programs, including [Conservation Commons](#).

To build this pipeline, OIR worked collaboratively with scientists to better communicate how our work addresses the goals of both funders and partners. OIR

brought together science leaders from across the Smithsonian to coordinate a pan-Institutional presence at the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change conference of parties held in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. Engaging in a strategic and coordinated way at major global events such as this is a first step to re-position the Smithsonian as an effective research partner for forward-thinking organizations.

In 2017, OIR built an expanded pipeline of up to €60M for priority science programs including Conservation Commons, in addition to an existing pipeline of more than \$100M in opportunities.

Working as One Smithsonian also brings greater benefit to our partners worldwide. For example, as Colombia grapples with the violence of its recent past through new archives, museums, and public programs, OIR harnessed existing Smithsonian interest and relationships in Colombia to broaden and deepen our partnerships with Colombian institutions and the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá. We finalized an MOU with the Ministry of Culture that supports ongoing interests in working with Colombian counterparts from a number of Smithsonian museums, research centers, and offices, including the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Museum of American History, and the SI Traveling Exhibition Service.

Continuing the Smithsonian tradition of facilitating diplomacy and scholarly exchange, in 2017 OIR coordinated 194

international delegation requests representing 142 countries (more than 2000 visitors). These included incoming official visits to 24 Smithsonian museums and research centers as well as high-level dignitary visits across the Institution, including numerous heads of state, first ladies, and foreign ministers.

How can we think strategically of ways to bring more international expertise to the Smithsonian, with limited resources? As part of our efforts to attract the world's future leaders to the Smithsonian, we worked with the Office of Fellowships and Internships to launch a new pilot [Fulbright fellowship](#). Starting this year, in cooperation with the government of Ireland's Creative Ireland initiative and the U.S. Department of State, this new fellowship will bring Irish fellows to the Smithsonian each year for the next four years.

OIR coordinated 194 international delegation requests representing 142 countries (more than 2000 visitors), with the most frequent visits to NMAAHC, NASM, NMAH, NMAI, and NMNH.

PROMOTING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Smithsonian is a thought leader with global relevance. Working closely with Smithsonian leadership, OIR facilitates global conversations across many themes, such as the importance of our cultural and natural heritage, reaching new audiences and partners, and expanding the Smithsonian's digital presence.

Highlights from 2017 - 2018:

Sharing our global reach with new audiences, OIR manages the [Smithsonian Global](#) website, which saw a 300 percent increase in site visitation in 2017. This site highlights international programs and activities from across the Smithsonian, and is translated into five languages – a first for the Smithsonian.

To reach new digital audiences, OIR produced a Smithsonian Global video series in 2017-2018, featuring Smithsonian curators, librarians, marine scientists, forest ecologists, educators, and paleontologists partnering with local communities around the world. Created with a generous grant from the Smithsonian Women's Committee (SWC), these videos provide a glimpse into parts of the Smithsonian that often go unseen, and into the depth and breadth of

the Smithsonian's global contributions – from preserving forests with indigenous peoples in Panama to celebrations of Iraq's literary culture. With a renewed SWC grant in 2018-2019, OIR will expand the video series to showcase even more global programs and their impact over the coming year.

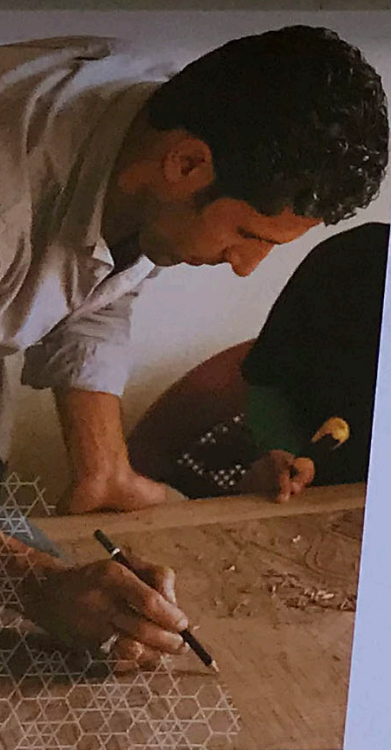
The Smithsonian Global website shares stories from across the Institution with key international partners, and features 64 staff, fellows, and researchers from across the Smithsonian.



Photos: George Stoyle (above), Maria Sanchez (below), Smithsonian Global.

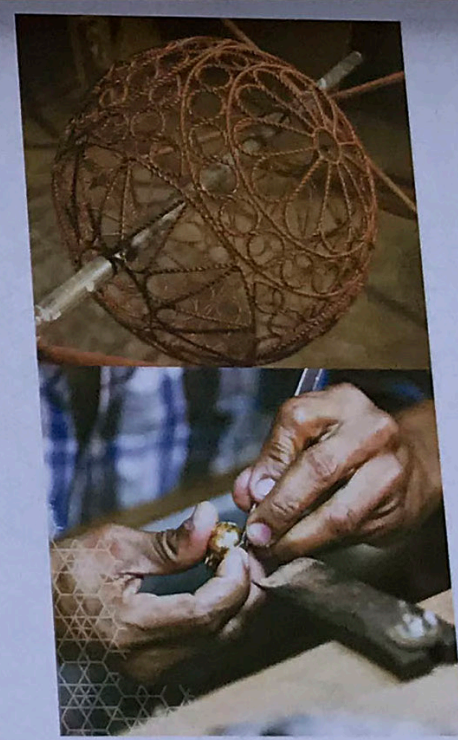
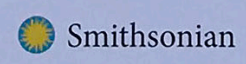


Visit global.si.edu to see the full Smithsonian Global Video Series.



THE LOFT

Crafting culture for the common good



A banner along the main promenade advertising the Smithsonian and Freer|Sackler branded exhibit at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 2018.

Photo: Aviva Rosenthal.

OIR partners with international and domestic institutions to convene and contribute to conversations that address global issues. In June 2017, OIR worked closely with then Acting Provost Richard Kurin to welcome more than 180 people to a moderated panel about cultural heritage protection and stabilization efforts in Northern Iraq. This event, coordinated by OIR in support of the interagency **Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee (CHCC)**, shared information about Smithsonian and fellow U.S. government agency efforts to support and preserve cultural heritage in Iraq. In the fall, with the **University of Iowa International Writing Program and the U.S. Department of State**, OIR organized a moderated discussion between Smithsonian curators and international writers on the art of storytelling. The event welcomed 170 attendees to the Smithsonian and leveraged U.S. Department of State virtual networks to reach global audiences.

OIR represents the Smithsonian at global gatherings. At the invitation of the U.S. Department of State, OIR represented the Smithsonian at the G7 Cultural Ministerial meetings in Italy, ensuring that the Smithsonian had a seat at the table to advocate for cultural heritage on a global scale.

On behalf of the Smithsonian, OIR builds relationships with organizations like the World Economic Forum (WEF). Over the last two years, OIR has built a partnership with the WEF that provides the Smithsonian



Photo copyright World Economic Forum / Benedikt von Loebell.

year-round opportunities to contribute to their global programs, in person and online. Since 2017, the WEF has invited the Smithsonian to the Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, as a featured arts and culture partner with exhibition space and speaking opportunities.

In January 2017, the WEF featured artist John Grade's "Middle Fork," shown at the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery's 2015 "WONDER" exhibition, while three Smithsonian leaders participated in panel discussions with other global leaders in academia, finance, politics, and the arts: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) Founding Director Lonnie Bunch, then Acting Provost Richard Kurin, and Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer Corine Wegener. That same year, the Smithsonian's first independently organized event at Davos featured a moderated discussion about the convening power of museums to facilitate complicated conversations. Discussions and meetings at Davos yielded new partnerships and opened the doors to significant new funding for the Institution.



Photo copyright World Economic Forum / Ciaran McCrickard.

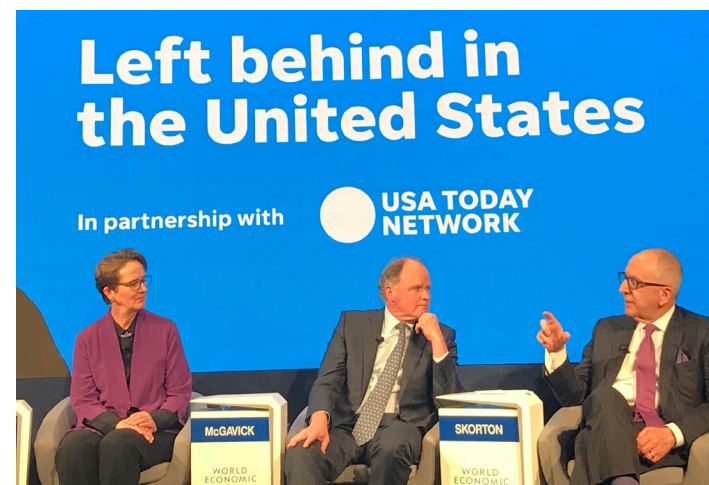
In 2018, the WEF invited the Smithsonian to curate a co-branded space at Davos. OIR worked with the Freer|Sackler museums of Asian art (F|S) and the Turquoise Mountain charity to expand and adapt the exhibition "Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan," into an immersive maker-space. At Davos, eight master artisans from around the world demonstrated and taught their craft to global leaders and held discussions that explored the value of the handmade in an age of automation. 2018 participants Secretary David J. Skorton and NMAAHC Director Lonnie Bunch joined panel discussions on history, cultural expression, and the arts and sciences.

At a dinner with friends of the Smithsonian, Board of Regents Chair David Rubenstein, Secretary Skorton, and Director Bunch hosted a group of leading public and private sector figures. Guests including the CEO of Bank of America, U.S. Chairman of PwC, President of CBS News, President of Global Development of the Gates Foundation, and former Secretary of State John Kerry, discussed the global impact of cultural and research organizations and potential future opportunities to partner with the Smithsonian.

In 2017, OIR also coordinated a [pilot digital collaboration](#) with the WEF, sharing branded Smithsonian content about the arts and culture with the WEF network of 30,000 global leaders. Co-curated with experts from across the Smithsonian (CFCH, CHNDM, F|S, MCI, NPG, and SAAM), this digital resource links Smithsonian research and programs with areas of global concern – from international security to education – and shows the relevance of our work.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, Secretary Skorton addresses an official WEF panel of global leaders in business, labor, government, and academia.

Photo: Aviva Rosenthal.



SUPPORTING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Smithsonian programs span the globe. OIR incubates new opportunities, working across the Institution to build successful strategies and proposals, and encourages new ideas and approaches to effectively manage and implement global programs.

Highlights from 2017 - 2018:

To tackle conservation problems on a global scale, OIR is an active member of the Smithsonian [Conservation Commons](#). Alongside scientists from multiple units, OIR develops innovative, pan-Smithsonian approaches to global conservation in areas of priority to Smithsonian science research.

Supporting and strengthening Smithsonian global conservation efforts, OIR seeks opportunities to leverage the success and knowledge of Smithsonian conservation programs to address conservation crises around the globe.

In 2017, OIR worked with scientists across the Smithsonian to develop \$44M in new proposals:

- Conservation of the Guiana Shield, improving understanding and protection of one of the last pristine corners of the Amazon
- Increasing capacity for science and environmental management in Myanmar
- Leveraging the Smithsonian's close relationship with the Mpala Research Center to integrate ecosystem science into land-use planning in Kenya



The Smithsonian's My Armenia Program is pioneering new approaches to research and promote cultural heritage. Partnering with digital scanning nonprofit CyArk, My Armenia supported the scanning of the Areni-1 Cave Complex in Armenia, pushing the boundaries of 3D scanning to digitally preserve this historic site. Photo: My Armenia Program.

The USAID-funded My Armenia Program provides opportunities across the Smithsonian, including: supporting research for the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, generating content for Smithsonian Enterprises, and inspiring Smithsonian Associates education programs.

In support of a more resilient global cultural sector, OIR is building new approaches to link cultural heritage preservation with international development. The five-year [My Armenia Program](#) is a pilot partnership between the Smithsonian and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). With technical expertise from the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH), this program affords the Smithsonian new opportunities to conduct cultural heritage research and safeguard irreplaceable cultural knowledge. For instance, the Smithsonian worked with digital

scanning nonprofit CyArk to digitally capture the historically significant site at the Areni-1 Cave Complex, where in 2007 archaeologists unearthed the earliest human evidence of winemaking. These technologies hold the potential to restore and preserve sites. The success of this program is inspiring new countries to partner with the Smithsonian, as well as new donors. For example, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development signed an MOU with the Smithsonian and then launched a new cultural heritage framework to guide its programs, influenced by our new relationship.

OIR supports pan-Smithsonian efforts to recover and preserve culture in crisis and conflict – and beyond. With the Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI), OIR supports the Smithsonian’s partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, Iraq. In 2017, the Smithsonian and the U.S. Department of State [signed two new agreements](#) to support the stabilization of Nimrud and other sites in Northern Iraq, as well as build local capacity to better manage cultural heritage recovery efforts in cities recently liberated from Islamic State group control.

In addition to protecting culture in situ, OIR

also supports MCI programs with the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security to train law enforcement in cultural heritage protection. In 2017, OIR managed the 13th *Preventing Illicit Trafficking, Protecting Cultural Heritage* training workshop with 25 participants from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. To date, more than 300 law enforcement officials from more than 100 domestic field and international offices have participated in these trainings. To strengthen collaboration between U.S. agencies and international counterparts, representatives of international federal agencies are also invited to attend on a case-by-case basis.

OIR supports Smithsonian efforts to build capacity in cultural heritage recovery in crisis areas. Iraqi cultural heritage professionals practice salvage techniques for museum collections. Photo: Jessica S. Johnson, Museum Conservation Institute.



A participant engages with Smithsonian content at an American Spaces training session facilitated by OIR, in Brasilia, Brazil. Photo: United States Government.

OIR works to identify and initiate new ways to achieve the Smithsonian’s Strategic Plan of reaching 1 billion people by 2022. Over the last five years, OIR has brought content from across the Smithsonian – exhibitions, education programs, and much more – to more than 650 American Spaces around the world, located in embassies, libraries, cultural centers, and universities, through our collaboration with the **U.S. Department of State’s American Spaces Program.** This unique, OIR-managed program was named [one of the top 10 diplomatic programs of 2016](#). Over the last year alone, at no cost to the Smithsonian, OIR placed Smithsonian content in the hands and minds of [40 million young people](#) worldwide.

By providing training for outgoing Foreign Service Officers through the U.S. Department

of State’s Foreign Service Institute, OIR builds relationships with colleagues from the U.S. Department of State who can champion our programs and research abroad. Since 2012, OIR has briefed foreign and U.S. ambassadors on Smithsonian activities in their respective countries and provided trainings for outgoing Public and Cultural Affairs Officers. In 2017, OIR trained more than 100 outgoing officers.



At the American Center Hanoi, children use Smithsonian Spark!Lab content to learn about invention and innovation. Photo: United States Government.

COORDINATING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL OPERATIONS

OIR works with Smithsonian units to advise and coordinate new protocols for international programs, keeping our staff safe, maximizing efficiencies, and mitigating risks to the Institution. We recognize and support the Smithsonian's fundamental need to operate safely in the world and keep our doors open to global talent.

Highlights from 2017 - 2018:

Keeping staff, researchers, fellows, and interns safe internationally is a Smithsonian priority. Working across the Institution, OIR, alongside a new task force, is developing new protocols for international travel to ensure Smithsonian travelers' safety. The International Travel Task Force (ITTF) is a new working group that includes OIR, the Office of Protection Services, the Travel Management Office, Risk Management, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Sponsored Projects, the Provost's Office, and others. This group is working to update international

travel policies to enhance traveler safety and also make the Institution more aware of Smithsonian international travel in case of emergencies. Look out for more guidance from the ITTF in 2018.

OIR also offers international support to Smithsonian employees with resources for visas, passports, international shipping, translation services, and more.



Scholars from Egypt visit the National Museum of the American Indian Cultural Resources Center to learn about museum collections management. Photo: Maria Sanchez.

OIR manages the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program at the Smithsonian, which makes it possible for foreign researchers to collaborate with Smithsonian curators, scholars, scientists, and practitioners, and to gain access to valuable Smithsonian resources. These exchanges foster connections and longer-term collaborations, ensuring that the Smithsonian continues our century-plus tradition of international scholarly exchange.

In support of this exchange program and keeping the Institution open to global talent, OIR provides comprehensive immigration support to enable the Institution to host a variety of international exchange scholars, including scientists, researchers, fellows, interns, employees, and others. In 2017, OIR sponsored 174 J-1 exchange scholars, 10 H-1B employees, and advised on dozens of cases. This year's international scholars to the Smithsonian came from more than 48 different countries.



7 continents.

140+ countries.

Programs as diverse as our planet.

Learn more at: global.si.edu

Photo: In the basement of the Smithsonian, stacks of packages have been prepared by the International Exchange Service. Established in 1848, the Smithsonian's International Exchange Service disseminated scientific publications to scholarly institutions both in the United States and abroad. OIR is proud to continue this legacy of global exchange to the present day.

Publication Packages Labeled with Foreign Country Destination, early 1900s.
Photo: Smithsonian Archives.

**The Office of International Relations
and Global Programs**

**1100 Jefferson Drive SW
MRC 705
Washington, DC
20013-7012**