Beneficiaries of the 2004 Smithsonian Craft Show

Proceeds from the Smithsonian Craft Show benefit educational, outreach and research programs within the Smithsonian Institution. Following its first show in 1983, the Smithsonian Women’s Committee began a grants program which, since 1984, has distributed more than $6.5 million to significant projects. Each year, the committee invites members of the Smithsonian family, including eighteen museums, research facilities and the National Zoo, to submit grant proposals. Women’s Committee members, assigned as advocates for each proposal, carefully research and evaluate the merits of each request. Proposals forwarded by their sub-committee are presented before the entire membership for vote. With the $379,316 earned by the 2004 Smithsonian Craft Show, the Smithsonian Women’s Committee funded the following 19 projects:

Archives of American Art—to conserve and re-house Martin Johnson Heade’s notes on hummingbirds, Palmer Hayden’s sketchbooks and an illustrated letter from George Luks to Everett Shinn

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum—to conserve and catalog six fabric sample books from 1750-1930 important in documenting the growth of the American clothing industry

Exhibits Central—to purchase tools, electronic file conversion hardware and software and training to expand the capability of the Haas Milling machine, a state-of-the-art computerized cutter vital to exhibition design and production

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden—to construct and install a custom-shelving system to organize and store the works on paper collection

National Air and Space Museum—to research rubber and materials in order to stabilize the deterioration of the space suits worn by the astronauts of the Gemini program

National Air and Space Museum—to pay for the transcription of taped oral histories and film sound tracks of pilots, engineers and aircraft designers significant to the history of aviation

National Museum of Natural History—to adapt and expand the Mammal Species of the World database for access by the scientific community and the general public

National Portrait Gallery—to repair and restore, for the reopening exhibition in July 2006, 29 frames from the 1700s to the 1990s for portraits of men and women who had defining roles in American history

National Zoo—to help zoos in Thailand identify poachers, build enclosures and develop a breeding program for the clouded leopard so these cats can be protected and bred from the wild to increase genetic diversity in European and American zoo populations

National Zoo—to investigate infectious diseases of the endangered red panda in China and North America

National Zoo—to identify reproductive problems in captive African elephants

National Zoo—to purchase a portable ultrasound unit for the Mobile Research Laboratory to conduct reproductive and veterinary research in an animal’s familiar environment

Smithsonian American Art Museum—to create an interactive Web site for 6-9 year olds using gaming theory and computer animation to take them on a mystery tour where clues match the museum’s art collection with events in American history and culture

Smithsonian Associates—to fund a brochure/poster and to purchase kites for the 39th annual Kite Festival on the Mall

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory—to produce an English/Spanish video, SAO: The Lighthouse of the Skies, to demonstrate SI research leadership in astronomy and astrophysics

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center—to support four summer internships at SERC for students interested in careers that preserve the environment

Smithsonian Institution Archives—to conserve Wilbur Wright’s letter to Secretary Langley outlining his belief in the future of flight and to print a set of never-developed negatives of the 1925 Scopes trial

Smithsonian Institution Libraries—to catalog 180 titles in Cooper-Hewitt’s collection documenting world expositions from 1851-1986

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute—to develop a “Discovery Room” with hands-on, interactive activities at STRI’s Culebra Marine Education Center in Panama

Endowments of the Smithsonian Women’s Committee

1991 Endowment Fund for the Fellowship in Museum Practices, $350,000

1999 Endowment Fund for the Renwick Gallery to support a biennial lecture, “Facets of American Craft: The Smithsonian Women’s Committee Biennial Lecture at the Renwick Gallery,” $100,000

2002 Thirty-fifth Anniversary Gift: The Smithsonian Women’s Committee Endowment for Research Training at the National Museum of Natural History, $125,000

2004 Smithsonian Education Achievement Awards, $15,000

2005 Smithsonian Education Achievement Awards, $15,000

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