Giving Back

When you purchase a ticket to the Smithsonian Craft Show, take an ad in our program or become a sponsor of this show, you are directly supporting the work of the Smithsonian Institution.

Net proceeds from the Craft show, along with earnings from the fall Craft2Wear event, are awarded annually in grants by the Smithsonian Women's Committee (SWC). Requests for proposals are solicited from all Smithsonian entities, including museums, scientific facilities and the National Zoo. Funding is highly competitive and awarded only after thorough research by members of the SWC and a vote of approval by the full membership.

In January 2012, the SWC awarded 18 grants totaling $367,898 to 12 different Smithsonian units.

We are extremely grateful to the generous individuals, corporations and foundations who helped make these grants possible with their participation, contributions and support.

Grants Awarded in 2012

FOR RESEARCH

$13,480 to the National Zoo’s Conservation Biology Institute to conduct hormonal analyses of captive elephants to determine if a hormonal imbalance causes the disruption to normal ovarian reproductive cycles that is noted in up to a third of captive elephants. This, in addition to environmental and behavioral analyses can lead to therapies to treat reproductive disorders and increase the reproductive rates of captive elephants.

FOR EDUCATION

$19,416 to the National Zoo to adapt its Neighborhood Nestwatch (NN) Program to create face-to-face interactions between Smithsonian scientists and underserved local schools and communities to familiarize the populations with the wild birds that inhabit their neighborhoods. The project will deliver important environmental messages to both children and adults and provide invaluable data to help them understand the threats to urban bird populations.

$15,000 to the Smithsonian American Art Museum for a free, virtual conference for educators featuring the museum’s new website, Oh Freedom! Teaching the African-American Civil Rights Movement Through American Art at the Smithsonian. The conference is co-sponsored by the National Museum of African American History and Culture. After its live presentation, it will be archived and available for viewing online.

$26,400 to the National Portrait Gallery to work with 5 dual language (Spanish/English) DC public elementary schools to bring fifth graders to the NPG, engage them in Portrait Stories, and show them how to create dual language biographies of individuals who have made a difference to our country. These Historias Retrato/Portrait Stories will be printed and distributed to students, their families and their school libraries.
$35,000 to the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum to create *Object of the Day*, a new website feature created to educate the public and keep them engaged with the Museum during its two year closure for renovation. Featuring a different collection work and related content on the homepage each day, it will introduce an average 1,200,000 annual website visitors to design and to Cooper-Hewitt’s rich collection of over 200,000 artifacts. *Object of the Day* will continue to be an on-line resource.

**FOR EXHIBITIONS**

$15,540 to the Anacostia Community Museum to support contractor design and fabrication planning for the exhibition, *Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement*, an interactive exhibition featuring the Anacostia River and its watershed, which will move the Anacostia Community Museum into a new era of urban issues-focused research, exhibition and programs.

$25,000 to the National Postal Museum to create two media interactives for the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum: the Boutwell Presentation Album of U.S. Revenue Stamps issued to support the American Civil War; and Amelia Earhart’s personal collection of her flown mail, photographs and souvenirs, as well as the stamped envelopes she carried, autographed, and had postmarked at the start and destination of her celebrity flights.

$21,800 to the National Zoological Park for design and installation of an interpretative exhibition on the whooping crane, a magnificent but endangered bird. The exhibition at the National Zoo will inform and engage the public about this remarkable species, conservation efforts by Smithsonian scientists, and the great unfolding story of on-going successes in conservation.

$28,662 to the National Museum of Natural History for a new multimedia program for the Science on a Sphere in the Sant Ocean Hall, which will deliver key themes about our profound and ancient connections to the ocean, describe the dramatic impacts we have made on this essential global system and instill a sense of personal urgency concerning the ocean’s health. The multimedia program will be shared with Sphere installations worldwide.

$18,000 to the National Museum of Natural History to enhance its current exhibition, *Eternal Life in Ancient Egypt*, with a touch-screen interactive that shows how 3D CT scanning is used for mummy research at NMNH and allows visitors to rotate, expand and delve further into mummy CT images.

**FOR EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

$22,402 to Smithsonian Gardens for a collaborative project with the National Museum of Natural History to create a “Bird Garden” adjacent to NMNH that will increase visitors’ appreciation and observational skills about bird lifecycles, habitats and migratory patterns. Engaging and Interpretive signage will relate bird exhibits within the museum to the Bird Garden outside.

$13,427 to the National Museum of American History for equipment and collateral materials for the new Spark!Lab Interactive Cart Program, which will provide activities and educational messages to visitors during the three year closure of National Museum of American History’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. The Program will also provide a platform to test out new activities, approaches and content to be used when the Spark!Lab reopens.
$35,000 to the Office of the Chief Information Officer to create an (AR) “augmented reality” mobile application to reveal what goes on inside Smithsonian buildings. By layering clickable text and graphics over the view of the exterior buildings that visitors have through their mobile smart phones’ cameras, the app will show visitors where Smithsonian research happens and give them access to more information and ways of getting involved from wherever they are when visiting the Museums on the Mall.

FOR CONSERVATION

$18,284 to the National Museum of Natural History Anthropological Archives for digitization and production of prints from the recent major donation of original negatives created by notable American photographer, Edward Curtis. Curtis’s iconic photographs of Native Americans will thus be available at the Museum and online for subsequent scholarly study, gallery exhibitions and general public enjoyment.

$25,047 to the Freer/Sackler Gallery to preserve, catalogue and archive the Freer Gallery of Art’s collection of approximately 400 concert recordings of Asian, Asian-American and Western classical music performed in the Meyer Auditorium since 1993. Recordings will be accessible and available for use by educators and researchers online and at the Gallery.

$8,000 to the National Museum of Natural History for the conservation matting and framing of 36 early 20th century scientific illustrations of whale anatomy to ensure their long-term preservation for use in exhibitions and as research tools, both at the Museum and online. These original pen and ink illustrations resulted from an important and historic artist-scientist collaboration at National Museum of Natural History and exemplify the importance of creativity in art and in science.

$22,000 to the Smithsonian Institution Archives to support two graduate paper conservation interns and two digitization interns who will work during summer 2012 to conserve and digitize original 19th and early 20th century scientific field expedition notebooks located at the Archives and in the National Museum of Natural History.

$5,440 to the National Portrait Gallery for restoration by Gold Leaf Studios of an elaborate mid-nineteenth century gilded Rococo revival frame. The frame is original to a fine NPG painting by Charles Loring Elliott of Thomas McKenney (1785-1859), founder of the United States Office of Indian Affairs. When created in 1856, the frame had bright water gilding and the frame’s central cartouche would have reflected light onto the surface of the portrait. The restored frame will once again reflect light.