SMITHSONIAN WOMEN’S COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2014 GRANTS

The Smithsonian Women’s Committee (SWC) has awarded 19 grants totaling more than $393,000 for 2014. These grants will benefit education, research, conservation, exhibitions, equipment and capital projects in 11 Smithsonian museums, research centers and offices. Funding is highly competitive and awarded after thorough research by members of the SWC and a vote by the full membership. A complete list of grants awarded follows.

The SWC is a Washington based volunteer organization dedicated to advancing the Smithsonian mission to increase and diffuse knowledge. Since its founding in 1966, the SWC has provided more than $10 million in grants and endowments for the Smithsonian with funds raised primarily through two annual signature events, the Smithsonian Craft Show in April and Craft2Wear in October. Each year, SWC members solicit, research and select the grants to be awarded with proceeds from the craft shows. Learn more about the SWC at swc.si.edu.

The Smithsonian Craft Show opens on Wednesday, April 9 with a Preview Night Benefit and continues through Sunday, April 13 at the National Building Museum. Proceeds from ticket sales and the online auction directly support the work of the Smithsonian. For details on this year’s show and to purchase tickets, go to SmithsonianCraftShow.org.

Giving Back – 2014 Grants Awarded by the Smithsonian Women’s Committee

FOR RESEARCH

The National Zoo ($18,000) to acquire five satellite tracking tags to study migratory movements of Black-Crowned Night Herons in real time, and to communicate this heron migration story to the public.

The National Museum of American History ($31,200) to support the development of a media-accessible archive and research resource documenting women's military history.

The National Zoo ($30,000) to examine behavioral and physiological impacts of the translocation of an elephant as the Zoo moves toward increasing the size of its herd.
A Black Crowned Night Heron whose migration will be tracked by the National Zoo

FOR EDUCATION

The National Zoo/Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute ($23,975) to restore adjacent grassland plots with native grasses and flowers to demonstrate the impact of management on biodiversity.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory ($17,186) to create and disseminate 100 sets of durable Braille and tactile panels to a highly underserved audience: blind, low-sighted, and visually impaired populations.

The National Museum of Natural History-National Anthropological Archives, and the National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center ($35,000) for a shared archivist to unify historically important, but currently inaccessible, photos by Edward Curtis in archival collections from both units.

The Archives of American Art ($25,000) to enhance and integrate the Archives' website with the Smithsonian’s new online crowd sourcing transcription platform.

The National Zoo ($3,000) to install bat boxes and interpretive graphics for endangered local bats.

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Students using Braille panels to understand an exhibit at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

FOR EXHIBITIONS

The Smithsonian Gardens ($31,389) to complete installation and interpretation for the Urban Bird Habitat Garden on the grounds of the National Museum of Natural History.

The National Zoo ($21,500) to create engaging exhibits about the American bison in honor of the zoo’s 125th anniversary.

The Smithsonian Libraries ($14,500) to create an online exhibition on women and Latino naturalists and illustrators, highlighting their unique scientific, historic, and artistic contributions.

The National Museum of American History ($24,550) to enable all NMAH visitors, including those with audio, visual, and cognitive disabilities, to participate fully in the interactive museum programs by providing Assistive Listening Systems.

The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum ($25,000) to contract with an author/researcher to develop narrative about the three Hewitt sisters, founders of the museum, for the museum’s 2014 fall reopening.

The National Museum of American History ($14,000) to produce and distribute videos for two milestones: the museum’s 50th anniversary and the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner.

FOR CONSERVATION

The National Portrait Gallery ($4,400) to complete conservation treatment of four recently acquired portrait miniatures, making it possible to exhibit them for the first time.
One of the National Portrait Gallery’s recently acquired miniatures of George Washington

FOR EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Freer/Sackler Galleries ($4,500) to purchase an aerosol generating system for conservation of paper and as a training tool for interns and fellows.

The National Zoo ($32,570) to support a prototype digital sign system to update visitors about zoo programs and activities.

The National Portrait Gallery ($10,713) to purchase a high-quality, large-format printer to produce graphic materials including labels, posters, banners and signage for public exhibitions, education programs, and other outreach activities.

The Archives of American Art ($26,700) to implement Aeon, a software to access archives and supplement the existing collection information system through increased digitization and online delivery.