



MINUTES OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING
OF THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

DECEMBER 10, 2024

Present

Laura Huerta Migus

Senior Official Performing Duties of the Director (SOPD)

Brian Allen	Kelli Mosteller
Joan Brodsky	Tim Murray
Susan Gibbons	Dipesh Navsaria
William Harris	Jim Neal
Lisa Hathaway	Annie Norman
Julius Jefferson	Halona Norton-Westbrook
Ashley Jordan	Allison Perkins
Cameron Kitchin	Mónica Ramírez-Montagut
MaryLynn Mack	Ramiro Salazar

Calvin D. Trowbridge III, Acting Board Secretary & Acting General Counsel
Cynthia Landrum, Deputy Director for Library Services

Not Present

Amy Gilman, Alan Price

Contributors from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Margie Salazar-Porzio, Deputy Director, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
Anthony Smith, Associate Deputy Director for Discretionary Programs, Office of Library Services
Sarah Minnaert, Associate Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services
Sarah Glass, Senior Program Officer, Office of Museum Services
Jennifer Himmelreich, *Diné*, Senior Program Officer, Office of Library Services
Emily Plagman, Strategic Evaluation and Research Officer, Office of Research and Evaluation
Gladstone Payton, Congressional Affairs Officer

Additional Contributors

Amy Malm, Associate Dean, Gallaudet University Library and Archives
Noah Beckman, Librarian, Gallaudet University
Richard Dougherty, Architect, Gallaudet University



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I. CALL TO ORDER

SENIOR OFFICIAL PERFORMING DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR (SOPD) LAURA HUERTA MIGUS called to order the Fiftieth Meeting of the National Museum and Library Services Board at 9 a.m. Following a roll call, she noted that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 49th MEETING

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS recognized ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL AND ACTING BOARD SECRETARY CALVIN TROWBRIDGE for the Board’s approval of the minutes of its prior meeting. The minutes of the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the National Museum Library Services Board were approved unanimously.

III. WELCOME AND AGENCY UPDATE

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS recognized Ms. Cynthia Landrum for her service as Acting Director and thanked the Leadership Team at IMLS. SOPD HUERTA MIGUS then opened the floor to questions and comments from the Board. BOARD MEMBER MÓNICA RAMÍREZ-MONTAGUT expressed praise and gratitude to both Ms. Landrum and Ms. Huerta Migus for guiding the agency through Presidential and Director transitions. BOARD MEMBERS TIM MURRAY and BRIAN ALLEN asked for more information on how the Presidential Transition process worked, and SOPD HUERTA MIGUS explained the process from the agency perspective. BOARD MEMBER CAMERON KITCHIN asked about the status of the office move, and SOPD HUERTA MIGUS noted that the process was moving forward as expected. BOARD MEMBER ANNIE NORMAN asked for additional information surrounding the continuing resolution (CR), and SOPD HUERTA MIGUS explained that the agency expected a CR to be passed on December 20th to extend federal funding through March or April of 2025.



IV. PRESENTATION BY GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS introduced AMY MALM, Associate Dean, Gallaudet University Library and Archives, NOAH BECKMAN, Librarian, Gallaudet University Deaf Collections, and RICHARD DOUGHTERY, Gallaudet University Architect. The presentation focused on how the University seeks to exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as building engagement services and facilities for the Deaf community.

V. MEDALS PROCESS DISCUSSION

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS described the existing procedure for engaging Board members in the selection process of the awardees of the National Medals for Museum and Library Service. The Board then discussed the process, including suggestions for improvement.

VI. THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS introduced MARGIE SALAZAR-PORZIO, Deputy Director of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH). MS. SALAZAR-PORZIO provided an update on agency partnerships facilitated by PCAH, including research and convenings, pilot projects and programs, and special initiatives.

VII. GRANTMAKING OVERVIEW

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS introduced ANTHONY SMITH, Associate Deputy Director for Discretionary Programs, Office of Library Services, to discuss IMLS discretionary grants and the Grants to States program. After his presentation, SOPD HUERTA MIGUS introduced SARAH MINNAERT, Associate Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, to discuss the agency's Museum Services programs.

SARAH GLASS, Senior Program Officer, Office of Museum Services, and JENNIFER HIMMELREICH, *Diné*, Senior Program Officer, Office of Library Services, discussed IMLS' programs for Native Communities. EMILY PLAGMAN-FRANK, Strategic Evaluation and Research Officer, Office of Research and Evaluation, joined them to present the results from the recently completed evaluation of these programs.



VIII. REAUTHORIZATION DISCUSSION

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS introduced GLADSTONE PAYTON, Congressional Affairs Officer, to give an overview of the Congressional Reauthorization process and the agency’s plans. The Board then discussed the reauthorization process. Board Member RAMIRO SALAZAR expressed concern about the political scrutiny libraries and museums are facing in the present moment and wondered if the agency would experience a similar level of scrutiny in the coming years. SOPD HUERTA MIGUS stated that is a possibility in an administration change, and the agency is preparing accordingly. BOARD MEMBER JULIUS JEFFERSON, JR. echoed Mr. Salazar’s concerns, but emphasized that museums and libraries offer critical nonpartisan services in every state. BOARD MEMBER MARYLYNN MACK noted that botanical gardens and similar environmental institutions also face headwinds. MR. PAYTON stressed that the agency always describes itself as nonpartisan and will continue to do so, highlighting the services for all Americans. SOPD HUERTA MIGUS thanked everyone for their comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

SOPD HUERTA MIGUS thanked the members of the Board for their robust discussions and adjourned the meeting at 4:49 PM.

Certified:

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Cynthia Landrum
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March 10, 2025

CYNTHIA LANDRUM
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services

DATE