

mentation of women's contributions throughout the Nation's history.

(4) On December 19, 2014, Congress created a Congressional Commission to study the potential for an American museum of women's history. The bipartisan Commission unanimously concluded that the United States needs and deserves a physical national museum dedicated to showcasing the historical experiences and impact of women in the United States.

(5) A comprehensive women's history museum would document the full spectrum of the experiences of women in the United States, represent a diverse range of viewpoints, experiences, and backgrounds, more accurately depict the history of the United States, and add value to the Smithsonian Institution.

(6) The collections, exhibits, historical narrative materials, and museum programming of the women's history museum should be inclusive, comprehensive, and innovative. Such collections, exhibits, materials, and programming should present the diverse range of experiences and viewpoints of all women in the United States, reflecting upon the things that set women apart from one another while also highlighting the experiences that many of these women share.

(Pub. L. 116–260, div. T, title I, §102, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2272.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 116–260, div. T, title I, §101, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2272, provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the ‘Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act’.”

§ 80t–1. Establishment of Museum

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, to be named by the Board of Regents in consultation with the council established under section 80t–2 of this title (referred to in this subchapter¹ as the “Museum”).

(b) Purpose

The purpose of the Museum established under this section shall be to provide for—

(1) the collection and study of, and the establishment of programs relating to, women's contributions to various fields and throughout different periods of history that have influenced the direction of the United States;

(2) collaboration with other Smithsonian Institution museums and facilities, outside museums, and educational institutions; and

(3) the creation of exhibitions and programs that recognize diverse perspectives on women's history and contributions.

(Pub. L. 116–260, div. T, title I, §103, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2273.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this Act”, and was translated as reading “this

title”, meaning title I of div. T of Pub. L. 116–260, known as the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act, which is classified to this subchapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 80t–2. Council

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a council to carry out the duties set forth under subsection (b) and other provisions of this subchapter¹ (referred to in this section as the “Council”).

(b) Duties

(1) In general

The Council established under this section shall—

(A) make recommendations to the Board of Regents concerning the planning, design, and construction of the Museum;

(B) advise and assist the Board of Regents on all matters relating to the administration, operation, maintenance, and preservation of the Museum;

(C) recommend annual operating budgets for the Museum to the Board of Regents;

(D) report annually to the Board of Regents on the acquisition, disposition, and display of objects relating to women's art, history, and culture; and

(E) adopt bylaws for the operation of the Council.

(2) Principal responsibilities

The Council, subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, shall have sole authority to—

(A) purchase, accept, borrow, and otherwise acquire artifacts for addition to the collections of the Museum;

(B) loan, exchange, sell, and otherwise dispose of any part of the collections of the Museum, but only if the funds generated by that disposition are used for additions to the collections of the Museum; or

(C) specify criteria with respect to the use of the collections and resources of the Museum, including policies on programming, education, exhibitions, and research with respect to—

(i) the life, art, history, and culture of women;

(ii) the role of women in the history of the United States; and

(iii) the contributions of women to society.

(3) Other responsibilities

The Council, subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, shall have authority—

(A) to provide for preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the collections of the Museum; and

(B) to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, and devises of personal property for the purpose of aiding and facilitating the work of the Museum.

(4) Ensuring diversity of political viewpoints in exhibits and programs

In carrying out its duties, the Council shall ensure that the exhibits and programs of the

¹ See References in Text note below.

¹ See References in Text note below.