



Media only: Eileen Maxwell (202) 633-6615
Leonda Levchuk (202) 633-6613

Feb. 1, 2008

National Museum of the American Indian Welcomes New Board Members

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian's board of trustees met in the first of three sessions for 2008 in Washington this week. The board, which seated eight new members, affirmed its commitment to the museum's mission to advance knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere.

"Through continued partnership with Native tribes and communities, we will work diligently to support the cultural and traditional values critical to Native life, past, present and future," said new board chairman, Norbert Hill Jr. (Oneida).

Current and former members of the board met for three days to review the current operations of the museum and to consider how the board might strengthen its oversight and support of museum operations. "This board of trustees is committed to the effective and efficient use of each resource of this museum," said Hill. "We owe our Indian constituents and the American public our best efforts to ensure that our collection and the federal and private funds that support museum programs are used wisely and well."

This is the first board meeting of the year and the first at which Kevin Gover (Pawnee/Comanche) participated as director of the museum. Gover became director Dec. 3, 2007. The board of trustees expressed its support for the new museum director. "Kevin has the support of this exceptional group of men and women," Hill said. "It is clear that he has the ability and willingness to execute the board's priorities and lead the museum into a new and exciting era."

The National Museum of the American Indian board of trustees was established by Congress in 1991. In addition to fiduciary responsibilities, such as raising endowment funds and recommending annual budgets, members also establish policy on the preservation, exhibition, research and educational programming of the collection.

**National Museum of the American Indian
2008 Board of Trustees**

Norbert Hill Jr. (Oneida), board chairman – Appointed 2003

*Manley Begay (Navajo) – 2008

*Howard Berlin – 2008

Mark F. Brown (Mohegan) – 2003

Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet), Museum Resources Committee chair – 2005

Peggy Cooper Cafritz – 2003

*Roberta Leigh Conner (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla) – 2008

*Cheryl Crazy Bull (Rosebud Sioux) – 2008

*Catherine S. Fowler – 2008

Keller George (Oneida) – 2003

*George Gund III – 2008

Frederick E. Hoxie, Nominations Committee chair – 2007

*Eric Jolly (Cherokee) – 2008

Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo), Secretary – 2007

Bryon I. Mallott (Tlingit), Museum Assets and Operations Committee chair – 2007

Nancy O'Connor (Crow) – 2003

Jackie Old Coyote (Crow), Museum Programs Committee chair – 2007

Tina Marie Osceola (Seminole), Community and Constituent Services Committee chair – 2007

Freda Porter (Lumbee) – 2007

Randall L. Willis (Oglala Lakota), vice chair – 2007

Phyllis Young (Standing Rock Lakota/Dakota) – 2007

*Jose Zarate (Quechua) – 2008

Richard Kurin, Acting Under Secretary for History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

Cristián Samper, Acting Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

*indicates new member