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Description of document: Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) communications between

the White House and the CFA, May 1, 2021 to June 7, 2021

Requested date: 05-June-2021

Release date: 29-September-2021

Posted date: 18-March-2024

Source of document: Commission on Fine Arts

FOIA Request

401 F St., NW, Suite 312 Washington, DC 20001 Email: foia@cfa.gov

FOIA.gov

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From: Susan Raposa <<u>sraposa@cfa.gov</u>> Cc: CFA FOIA Requests <<u>foia@cfa.gov</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 11:31:48 AM EDT

Subject: RE: CFA 202109

Pursuant to your Freedom of Information Act request (5 U.S.C. § 552), for "A copy of each letter and each email from the White House (or from the President or from the White House Office of Presidential Personnel) to the Commission of Fine Arts during the timeframe May 1, 2021 to the present," dated June 5, 2021, received June 7, 2021 and assigned reference number CFA2021-09, we are writing to complete our response for "a copy of each letter and each email from the White House (or from the President or from the White House Office of Presidential Personnel) to the Commission of Fine Arts during the timeframe May 1, 2021 to the present."

Attached, please find a self-extracting .zip file containing documents responsive to your request. Please let me know if you have any difficulty accessing the documents.

Responsive documents total 62 pages with redactions, per 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

Thank you for your interest in the Commission of Fine Arts and its activities. The foregoing determination may be appealed administratively within thirty days of the date of this letter by writing to:

The Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-6556 MIB Washington, DC 20240 Attn: FOIA Appeals Office;

or via email at <u>FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov</u>. You should clearly mark your communication: "Freedom of Information Appeal."

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

#### The National Archives and Records Administration

Office of Government Information Services 8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov

Web: <a href="https://ogis.archives.gov">https://ogis.archives.gov</a> Telephone: (202) 741-5770

Fax: (202) 741-5769

Toll-free: 1 (877) 684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Agency's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

If you need any further assistance, please contact me at the above address or you can reach me at (202) 504-2200 or <a href="mailto:sraposa@cfa.gov">sraposa@cfa.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Susan M. Raposa Technical Information Specialist Commission of Fine Arts

## Request description:

A copy of each letter and each email from the White House (or from the President or from the White House Office of Presidential Personnel) to the Commission of Fine Arts during the timeframe May 1, 2021 to the present. A copy of each letter and each email from the White House Office of Presidential Personnel to any of the following Commissioners: Steven Spandle, Perry Guillot, Chas Fagan and/or Justin Shubow, during the timeframe May 1, 2021 to the present.

From: Thomas Luebke

Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:36 PM

To: Susan Raposa Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:32 PM To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Contact Information

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Thomas Luebke

Date: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 1:30 PM

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Contact Information

To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Thomas Luebke

Date: Mon, May 24, 2021 at 12:49 PM

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Contact Information

To: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Thanks for the update—please let me know when you have any status to report or any instructions for action I need to take. Tom

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2021, at 12:06 PM, Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO wrote:

Thanks Tom. I plan to send these momentarily.

From: Thomas Luebke

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 3:52 PM To: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

EOP/WHO

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Contact Information

; Petrelius, Katherine

#### Katie or Atissa:

Can you please confirm receipt of these addresses, and what the status is of your communication with these CFA members? I ask in order to be prepared if I get internal, public or press inquiries. Thank you, Tom Luebke

Sent from my iPhone

On May 21, 2021, at 11:24 AM, Thomas Luebke

Atissa:

Per your request, here are the email addresses:

Justin Shubow: jshubow@civicart.org

Chas Fagan: <a href="mailto:chasfagan@aol.com">chasfagan@aol.com</a>

Perry Guillot: <u>p@guillotinc.com</u>

Steven W. Spandle: <u>steven@swspandle.com</u>

Please let me know if you need any other information. Best regards,

Thomas Luebke

On Fri, May 21, 2021 at 9:25 AM Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO wrote:

Hi Thomas,

Hope you are well! I wanted to reach out to see if you had the emails for the following members:

Justin Shubow

Charles "Chas" Fagan Perry Guillot Steven Spandle

Thank you!

Best, Atissa

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:14 PM

To: Susan Raposa
Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:52 AM **To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

Ok, thank you. At the moment, I am not sure whether the four are officially still in or out—it's an operational issue for me as much as press—so any guidance you can give me as soon as possible would be appreciated. Tom

From: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:42 AM

To: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov>

**Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO **Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

Hi – yes – will be back to you soon! For now you can feel free to direct press inquiries to the WH

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:42 AM

To: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO
Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: FW: CFA resignations

I presume you saw this: <a href="https://thefederalist.com/2021/05/24/biden-purges-non-partisan-us-commission-on-fine-arts-in-unprecedented-move-against-popular-classical-architecture/">https://thefederalist.com/2021/05/24/biden-purges-non-partisan-us-commission-on-fine-arts-in-unprecedented-move-against-popular-classical-architecture/</a>

This is the source that everyone is following up on. Tom

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:27 AM

To: Cc:

**Subject:** CFA resignations

Katie:

Can you please contact me ASAP? I already have 4 major press inquiries and am not sure how to handle this—should they referred to the White House press office? In addition, is there anything official (statements, documents, etc.) that can confirm the resignations/appointment terminations for Shubow, Fagan, Guillot, and Spandle? I have longstanding relationships with these reporters and need to respond in some way this morning. Thank you for your attention to this—Best regards, Tom

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Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001
>www.cfa.gov<

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:10 PM

To: Susan Raposa
Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:49 PM **To:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

I appreciate it!

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>

**Cc:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

I sent the edit to the comms team!

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:27 PM

**To:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO **Cc:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

### Atissa:

Thanks for sending this! Can you please correct the name of the agency, which is the Commission <u>OF</u> Fine Arts (it says "on" in the announcement.). Thanks very much for your help & look forward to working with you in bringing on the new appointees. Best regards, Tom

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From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >
Cc: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Subject: Re: CFA resignations

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/25/president-biden-announces-his-intent-to-appoint-members-to-the-commission-on-fine-arts/

On May 25, 2021, at 11:56 AM, Thomas Luebke <<u>tluebke@cfa.gov</u>> wrote:

Thanks for letting me know, and glad it's forthcoming so soon—this will help us in our public messaging etc. Tom

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:52 PM

To: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >; Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

**Subject:** Re: CFA resignations

Should go in the next 15 minuets!

On May 25, 2021, at 11:33 AM, Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

wrote:

Hi Thomas,

Hopefully within the next few hours – sometimes things get ahead of us! I will connect the candidates with you individually once the release is out.

Thank you for your patience here!

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:57 PM

To: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO
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Subject: RE: CFA resignations

Katie:

I was able to learn from the NPR piece the names of the new intended appointees to the Commission. Can you give me any guidance on timing of a White House announcement and official appointment? And is there any possibility of guidance on chairmanship? I look forward to hearing from you—Thanks, Tom

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 11:12 AM **To:** Thomas Luebke < <u>tluebke@cfa.gov</u>>

Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

Of course, will do! We will keep you posted. Thanks for your help.

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:29 AM

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Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts 401 F Street, NW Suite 312 Washington, DC 20001 >>>>www.cfa.gov<<<<;;;;

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Susan Raposa **Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:06 PM

**To:** Susan Raposa **Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:17 AM

**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

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From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:59 AM

To: Susan Raposa
Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:45 PM **To:** Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov> **Cc:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

I sent the edit to the comms team!

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To: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO
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#### Atissa:

Thanks for sending this! Can you please correct the name of the agency, which is the Commission OF Fine Arts (it says "on" in the announcement.). Thanks very much for your help & look forward to working with you in bringing on the new appointees. Best regards, Tom

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Subject: Re: CFA resignations

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/25/president-biden-announces-his-intent-to-appoint-members-to-the-commission-on-fine-arts/

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**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Subject:** FW: CFA resignations

I presume you saw this: >>>>>https://thefederalist.com/2021/05/24/biden-purges-non-partisan-us-commission-on-fine-arts-in-unprecedented-move-against-popular-classical-architecture/<<<<<;;;;;

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**Thomas Luebke** FAIA Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts 401 F Street, NW Suite 312

# Washington, DC 20001

>>>>>www.cfa.gov<<<<<;;;;;

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:58 AM

**To:** Susan Raposa **Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:52 PM

To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>; Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

**Subject:** Re: CFA resignations

Should go in the next 15 minuets!

On May 25, 2021, at 11:33 AM, Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

wrote:

Hi Thomas,

Hopefully within the next few hours – sometimes things get ahead of us! I will connect the candidates with you individually once the release is out.

Thank you for your patience here!

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:57 PM

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**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

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Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

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From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:57 AM

To: Susan Raposa

**Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1 and part 2

**Attachments:** CFA\_Steven Spandle\_Resignation Request.docx; CFA\_Justin Shubow\_Resignation Request.docx;

CFA\_Charles Fagan\_Resignation Request.docx; CFA\_Perry Guillot\_Resignation Request.docx

From: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>
Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: FW: CFA letters

Tom, attached are the letters for your records.

Katie

From: Thomas Luebke

Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:56 AM

To: Susan Raposa Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

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From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:10 PM

To: Susan Raposa
Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:49 AM

To: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: Introductions

Atissa:

Thanks for sending this. I do in fact know Hazel already & I'll follow up with her soon. Best regards, Tom

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:39 AM

To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>; Edwards, Hazel R <hazel.edwards@Howard.edu>

**Subject:** Introductions

Dear Hazel,

I am sure you already know each other, but I wanted to formally introduce you Thomas, the Commission's current Secretary.

Technically, the clerk hasn't signed the required documents, so no official work can be done just yet, but he will get you acquainted with the workings of the Commission.

I did want to reiterate the most important point of business is that there is an important meeting of CFA on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Thomas can give you more insight there.

Thank you both so much!

Best, Atissa

Atissa Ladjevardian (she/her)
Associate Director

Office of Presidential Personnel | The White House

Work Cell: (202) 881-8464 |

Join us!

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:10 PM

To: Susan Raposa
Subject: FOIA 202111-part 1

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:56 PM **To:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO **Cc:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Subject: Re: CFA resignations

Wonderful, thanks for the update! Best, Tom

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:48 PM

To: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >
Cc: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

**Subject:** Re: CFA resignations

Hi Thomas,

I'll let you know as soon as the clerk signs the Commission. Once that happens, the candidates are officially "members" and can begin work.

Should be within the next week!

Atissa

On May 27, 2021, at 2:11 PM, Thomas Luebke <<u>tluebke@cfa.gov</u>> wrote:

Katie: Do you have any information about when to expect the actual appointment by President Biden of the four new CFA members? I'd appreciate any estimate you may have—Thanks, Tom

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**Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO **Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

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**Subject:** RE: CFA resignations

Hi – yes – will be back to you soon! For now you can feel free to direct press inquiries to the WH

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:42 AM

**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: FW: CFA resignations

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**Subject:** CFA resignations

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Thomas Luebke FAIA
Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001
>>>>>www.cfa.gov<<<<;;;;;

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Susan Raposa **Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 4:10 PM **To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

Katie: Do you have any information about when to expect the actual appointment by President Biden of the four new CFA members? I'd appreciate any estimate you may have—Thanks, Tom

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 11:12 AM **To:** Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: DE: CEA resignations

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

Of course, will do! We will keep you posted. Thanks for your help.

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov > Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:29 AM

**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

OK, I appreciate the clarification! Please let me know when you need anything from me in the appointment of the new members. Thanks, Tom

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Subject: RE: CFA resignations

The letters, since they indicated termination, are enough for the WH Clerk to document their removal from the commission. We will now work to appoint the four new individuals.

Perry was the only person who replied with an understanding that he would no longer be serving on the commission.

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:24 AM

**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

Great, thanks. Did any of the commissioners actually resign? And if not, what happens now to document their removal?

From: Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:57 AM

To: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >
Cc: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

They were terminated at 6pm yesterday by President Biden, per the letters they all received. So they are officially out.

From: Thomas Luebke < tluebke@cfa.gov >

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:52 AM

**To:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO **Cc:** Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: CFA resignations

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From: Thomas Luebke

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:59 AM

**To:** Susan Raposa **Subject:** FOIA 202111-part 1

From: Ladjevardian, Atissa EOP/WHO

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:48 PM **To:** Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>

**Cc:** Petrelius, Katherine EOP/WHO

Subject: Re: CFA resignations

Hi Thomas,

I'll let you know as soon as the clerk signs the Commission. Once that happens, the candidates are officially "members" and can begin work.

Should be within the next week!

Atissa

On May 27, 2021, at 2:11 PM, Thomas Luebke <<u>tluebke@cfa.gov</u>> wrote:

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