



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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September 19, 2022

By email only to webaker@aii.edu

Wendy Baker
Vice President & General Counsel
The Arts Institutes International, LLC
6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30328-1649

Re: OCR Docket No. 04-19-6903
The Art Institute of Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Ms. Baker:

This letter is to advise you of the resolution of the directed investigation that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) initiated in The Art Institute of Atlanta (Institute). OCR investigated whether the Institute's online programs, services, and activities exclude qualified persons with disabilities from participation in, deny them the benefits of, or otherwise subject them to discrimination under any program or activity, in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. §104.4.

OCR enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department.

OCR conducted an assessment of the Institute's online programs, services, and activities and noted possible compliance concerns including, but not limited to:

- Users with disabilities who use computer keyboards for navigation due to a disability did not have access to all contents and functions.
- Form fields were missing programmatic labels or titles, posing a barrier to people with vision disabilities who use screen readers.
- The foreground and background colors of important content lacked sufficient contrast, posing a barrier to people with low vision.

On September 16, 2022, the Institute signed the enclosed resolution agreement (Agreement) to voluntarily resolve the directed investigation pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*. OCR will monitor the implementation of the Agreement.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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This concludes OCR's directed investigation. This letter should not be interpreted to address the Institute's compliance with any other regulatory provision or to address any issues other than those addressed in this letter. This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR directed investigation. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. An individual may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 987-1402 or tamara.perry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tamara Perry
Attorney Advisor

Enclosure